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Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif Denies PLO Rejects Baker Plan

JN2910103889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied that the PLO has rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five points on elections in the occupied territories. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' published today, Abu-Sharif said the PLO did not respond, either negatively or positively, to the five points proposed by Baker to Egypt and Israel, but not to the Palestinian side. He said he believes that the intentions of U.S. President George Bush and his secretary of state are good regarding the finding of a political solution in the Middle East. He indicated that the principles announced by Bush and Baker regarding the need to find a just settlement for the Palestine question stem from genuine conviction toward this issue.

He explained that the Palestinian side wants from America nothing more than practical steps to translate what its President said during his meeting in the White House with enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who was urged to end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Al-Najjab on Baker's Plan, Egyptian Contacts

JN2910082289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 26 Oct 89 p 30

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian official has denied news agency reports that the PLO has not rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab indicated the talks that a Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat held with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak revolved around the PLO Central Council resolutions that were adopted during last week's meetings in Baghdad. He added that the Palestinian delegation informed President Mubarak of the PLO's unwavering stand toward its right to name the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel, indicating that the agenda of the meeting should be open.

Al-Najjab said the Palestinian delegation presented to the Egyptian president some remarks on Baker's plan, including the plan's disregard of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, as well as its disregard of national Palestinian rights, something which conflicts with the principles approved by the Central Council.

Ranking Palestinian sources told AL-ANBA' that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has recently asked Yasir 'Arafat not to reject his 10-point plan and said the PLO could put forward the questions to which it seeks replies. Accordingly, 'Arafat asked Egypt to convey these questions to the United States.

On Baker, Israeli-U.S. 'Maneuvers'

JN2810171089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Oct 89 p 23

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee members Sulayman al-Najjab and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh have attacked Baker's plan, saying that a U.S.-Israeli plan is being implemented to isolate the PLO and to implement Shamir's plan.

In a telephone conversation with AL-WATAN, al-Najjab said: Our major task now is to foil U.S. attempts to find an Arab party to help it, in turn, find a Palestinian party to meet with Shamir to negotiate the election and autonomy plans.

He added: Arens' acceptance of Baker's five points was not a surprise to us at all. The surprise would have been Israel's rejection of the plan, which was proposed mainly to help Shamir find a Palestinian party that Shamir himself could not find since the outbreak of the glorious intifadah.

As is well known, former U.S. Secretary of State Shultz tried to help Shamir find a Palestinian party, from outside the PLO, to negotiate with Shamir, but he failed, al-Najjab said. However, what is new in Baker's plan is that it seeks to find an Arab party to help find a Palestinian party to negotiate the election and autonomy plans with Shamir. He added: We are confident that this plan will fail. It is necessary that the Arab states abide by the Palestinian peace initiative adopted by the Arab summit in Casablanca.

Al-Najjab rejected the need to wait for the Israeli reaction. He said that they are trying to exploit the Palestinian silence by interpreting it as either approval or nonrejection. He stressed that the intifadah is continuing and that attempts to hamper the Palestinian leadership's political action are to no avail.

Al-Najjab said: We are fully aware of the Israeli and Washington rulers' maneuvers, through which they are trying to create a rift between the Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories]. The PLO Central Council's resolutions have come as a slap in the face of all these delusions. Certainly, the Palestinian leadership's action to implement these resolutions will silence all these voices. [passage omitted]

Meeting Between 'Abd-Rabbuh, Pelletreau Detailed

JN2910195589 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 28 Oct 89 p 14

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has disclosed that the meeting on Thursday [26 Oct] between PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau was held at the request of the former.

Jamil Hilal, director general of the PLO's Information Department—the department headed by 'Abd-Rabbuh himself—said the meeting, which for the first time was held in an official PLO office—apart from the meetings held at the Palestinian Embassy in Tunis—sought to explain the Palestinian position on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan. This position rejects the plan on the grounds that it is no different from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan and that it ignores the fact that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people.

According to Hilal, 'Abd-Rabbuh explained to Ambassador Pelletreau the PLO Central Council's conditions to initiate a preliminary Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and stressed that the PLO will neither abandon its right to form and announce the Palestinian delegation to any negotiations on the Palestine question nor be dragged by international or regional pressure into changing the position it declared in Baghdad. He denied reports that the PLO had not rejected Baker's plan, and said these reports are completely false.

Asked why the PLO discussed Baker's plan with the U.S ambassador although it had not officially received the plan, as some Palestinian officials have said, Hilal said that although it did not receive the plan, the Palestinian side is concerned about it; it is the party most concerned with the question. Also, several quarters have claimed that the PLO did not reject the plan, which needed clarification and denial.

On the U.S. ambassador's view, Hilal said Pelletreau had defended his secretary of state's plan and added nothing new to the declared U.S. position.

The Palestinian official expressed doubts regarding the convening of a fifth official PLO-U.S. round of talks soon. He said that the 'Abd-Rabbuh-Pelletreau meeting, although it stressed the need to continue contacts, did not discuss a date for a next meeting.

Hilal expressed the belief that the PLO's request for a meeting with the U.S. ambassador came at a time when the U.S.-Israeli relations are undergoing high-level coordination, although the U.S. Administration is trying to imply that it is playing the role of a neutral mediator through the Baker plan. He explained that the United States is not a fit mediator and stated that it has become clear the United States is acting to undermine Palestinian representation, liquidate the intifadah, and let pass the second part of the Camp David treaty.

Hilal disclosed that the Arab countries, particularly those belonging to the seven-member committee set up by the Arab summit in Casablanca, will be called upon to draw a new, effective, and urgent plan of action to back the Palestinian peace plan and the popular intifadah, especially in the wake of French President Francois Mitterrand's statements. These statements, he said, provide the appropriate opportunity to arrange an Arab-European dialogue to end U.S. attempts to deal unilaterally with the peace process in the Middle East.

He also disclosed that the PLO is planning further coordination with the Soviet Union and pointed out that the talks which PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abas held Friday [27 October] with Soviet Foreign Ministry envoy Gennadiy Tarasov were a continuation of the talks held between the two sides in Moscow last week.

U.S. Diplomats Said To Meet West Bank Figures

JN2910164889 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 28 Oct 89 P 1

[Text] Amman—Palestinian figures arriving here from the occupied territories have revealed that U.S. diplomats in occupied Palestine have met with figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, whose names are not necessarily on the circulated list, to discuss their participation in negotiations with an Israeli delegation in Cairo. These figures, who participated in the meetings, said that U.S. officials at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv also met with members from the HAMAS movement in the occupied territories to discuss with them the formation of an acceptable Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel on the issue of holding free elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Team for Election Talks To Be Formed Within Days

JN2910105289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 29 oct 89

[Text] Dubayy, 29 Oct (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that the PLO has begun studying the formation of a Palestinian delegation for the proposed dialogue with Israel on the election plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in accordance with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal.

The newspaper AL-BAYAN cited Palestinian sources in the Jordanian capital of Amman as saying the formation of the delegation will be announced within the next few days. The delegation is expected to include figures from inside and outside the occupied territories.

The paper adds that the most prominent candidates for representing the Palestinians in exile are Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, and Akram Haniyah, Fatah Revolutionary Council member, who are both deportees, in addition to Nabil Sha'th, who is an adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

WAFA Political Editor on U.S.-Israeli 'Scenario'

JN2710144289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1823 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Commentary by the political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA: "U.S.-Israeli Craftiness"]

[Text] The scenario according to which the dialogue between the United States and Israel is conducted is a strange one. What is stranger is the content of the daily, heated dialogue itself, which strives to leave the impression that the United States and Israel are heading toward discord in their views and to estrangement or an eternal divorce.

While Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir continues to declare his refusal to sit down with the PLO and his rejection of Baker's five points because they are ambiguous, the U.S. State Department, on behalf of the United States, waves threats at Shamir that his visit to the White House is not confirmed unless he responds to the five points put forth by Mr Baker, the U.S. secretary of state.

Israeli statements on the five points go on. The debate becomes heated and Israel appears so rigid that it cannot be moved from its position. The United States looks as if it is determined that there be harmony with its initiative.

But, because the United States and Israel are strategic allies and because the gap between them is wide and must be bridged, mutual concessions must be made—a concession from Baker and another from Shamir. In the end, things will look as if victory has been achieved by the United States' patience, which must not be taxed by the Arabs asking for more efforts to bring Israel to heel.

This is the scenario according to which the heated dialogue is conducted on the Israeli-U.S. front. What is the scenario on our front—that is, the Arab and Palestinian fronts?

First, we must be cautious and not enter into these marginal details of the United States and Israel because, at best and even if accepted by Israel, the U.S. initiative does not provide the necessary level to begin a constructive dialogue for a just peace in the region. Additionally, it is not in harmony with the major objectives raised by the Palestinian peace initiative.

Second, the U.S. initiative contradicts in content and substance the principles approved by international will on every occasion the issue of achieving peace in the region was raised—a peace based on the principles of right and justice. Therefore, by itself, it lacks the condition to conform with the general line and the common viewpoint of world consciousness, and also with harmony in international politics.

If the first plan does not respond to worldwide aspirations and fails to provide the minimum requirements for a strong peace, then bridging the gap will not achieve anything in terms of decisive political developments. On the contrary, this will hamper the efforts and shuffle the cards in such a way as to take things back to square one.

Third, U.S. Secretary of State Baker's initiative is, basically and originally, an attempt to rescue Shamir's plan, which in turn is essentially a U.S. plan. Consequently, it is an attempt to improve or make the initiative more attractive. This makes one seriously wonder if the United States has written this Israeli-U.S. scenario so that the heated and difficult dialogue can be conducted in accordance with this scenario with the aim of preoccupying world public opinion and pushing it to accept an initiative that will achieve nothing for the Palestinians.

We will watch this U.S.-Israeli scenario. But, we will not be deceived by it. Behind it, there is a bizarre heritage of firm alliance that allows the United States to stand alone against the whole world in support of Israeli injustice, terrorism, occupation, and murder.

Palestinian-Soviet Meeting Held in Tunis

LD2910191789 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] A Palestinian-Soviet meeting has examined the latest developments in connection with the settlement of the Palestinian question, the Middle East question, and paricularly, the five points of U.S. State Secretary James Baker, and issues of mutual coordination between the Palestinian and Soviet sides. The meeting was held in Tunis.

The Palestinian side in the meeting included brothers: Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Sulayman Najjab, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and Brother Abu Ja'far [Ihsan abu Hijlah], the director general of the Political Department of the Organization. The Soviet side was comprised of Comrades Gennadiy Tarasov, assistant foreign minister for Middle Eastern affairs; [name indistinct], head of the Palestinian section at the Soviet Foreign Ministry; the Soviet Union's ambassador to Tunisia; and the Soviet charge d'affairs of the Soviet Embassy in the Tunisian capital.

PLO Delegation in Moscow for Committee Meetings

JN2210102489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Oct 89 p 25

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Moscow]

[Text] Palestinian-Soviet talks, described by responsible PLO sources as important, will begin in Moscow today, Friday. The sources indicated that a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, and comprising Mahmud Darwish and Nabil 'Amr arrived in Moscow 2 days ago to take part in meetings of the Joint Palestinian-Soviet Coordination Committee in which the Soviet delegation will be headed by Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The sources pointed out that this meeting will tackle a number of issues concerning the Palestine question in light of the current developments witnessed in the region during the past 2 weeks.

The same sources indicated that the recent U.S. plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the PLO's declared position on this plan will be one of the topics on the agenda of the Palestinian-USSR talks. Special emphasis will be laid on the five principles [contained in the final statement of the PLO Central Council] which reject the formation, naming, or announcement of the composition of a Palestinian delegation by any party other than the PLO, the sources added. These principles also reflect the Palestinians' determination to have the right to make remarks and ask questions. They also stipulate that the Palestinians will only present the Palestinian initiative announced in Algiers and Geneva. These principles, moreover, state that the Palestinian-Israeli talks must pave the way for the convening of an international conference.

The Palestinian-Soviet Committee will also discuss the results of the PLO Central Council meetings recently held in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, during which the PLO rejected Baker's proposal and described it as a bid to revive the Shamir plan, which calls for holding elections in the occupied territories.

Within the framework of bilateral coordination, the Palestinian and Soviet delegations will discuss the results of the PLO's contacts on the proposed plans, especially the outcome of the visit to Cairo on Friday [13 October] by a Palestinian delegation comprising Mahmud 'Abbas and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

The sources voiced the belief that the Palestinian and Soviet sides will draw up a conception for the upcoming phase to counter the Israeli-U.S. role represented by an attempt to obscure the PLO's role, through the failure to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and proposing plans designed to waste time and quell the intifadah.

The same sources added that the results of the Moscow meetings which are expected to be concluded tomorrow, Saturday, will be submitted to a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee scheduled to be held on 25 October. Moreover, the PLO Executive Committee will discuss the results of these meetings in its next meeting. It is to be recalled that the Palestinian-Soviet Joint Committee has held four meetings since it was formed almost 1 year ago.

Palestinian Leaders 'Admonish' Soviets

JN2910193889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Oct 89 p 20

[By 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Khashshan in Moscow]

[Text] Three Palestinian leaders who arrived in Moscow recently and participated in the international seminar "The Developing Countries and the Contemporary World," have, in different ways, bitterly admonished the "firm ally."

During the recent meeting at the Soviet Foreign Ministry between PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas—also known as Abu-Mazin—and Mahmud Darwish and Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, a review was made of the efforts to activate the different positions with the aim of preparing for convening the international peace conference.

But, in his speech before the international seminar, Abu-Mazin asserted that the PLO is the only party authorized to form the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. He referred to the paradox governing the U.S. view on Jewish emigration which sees it as being from the Soviet Union alone. He asserted that the U.S. stand is a deceptive one to confiscate homelands behind the excuse of self-defense.

George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who attended the seminar, was more forthcoming in his admonishment of what he called the "Soviet comrades." He called into question the soundness and appropriateness of the Soviet stance which supported Palestine's partition in 1947. He said the Soviet position is based on resolving the "Jewish question" on the basis of "assimilating the Jews within the societies in which they live, and not on the basis of the ghetto and isolation that the Zionist Movement practiced by displacing Jews and moving large numbers of them to Palestine."

Habash asserted that the Zionist Movement, in cooperation with the United States, is still acting according to the theory of "the ghetto and isolation" and it pressures the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate in large numbers by abusing "the new political thinking in the Soviet Union."

Habash said they focus on the Soviet Jews to enable Israel to deal with its demographic problem and the Palestinian population growth by concentrating on the emigration of the Soviet Jews.

Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told AL-ITTIHAD that the PLO had hoped the Soviet Union would vote in support of the Arab draft resolution which was submitted recently to the UN General Assembly to reject the credentials of the Israeli delegation in the United Nations.

Hawatimah said that Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, has assured him that Moscow rejects Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan on the occupied territory and is not satisfied with the Egyptian 10-point plan.

Polyakov Confers With Mahmud 'Abbas

JN2410210889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1920 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] A 3-hour meeting took place in Moscow between Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Comrade Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, within the framework of joint Palestinian-Soviet coordination.

During the meeting the two sides discussed all efforts and moves aimed at launching the peace process in the Middle East, as well as Palestinian-Soviet coordination on these efforts. They asserted the importance of joint action to convene an international conference for peace as a major framework for a solution. They also stressed the PLO's major role in the peace process as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Brother Abu-Mazin reviewed the results of the PLO Central Council meetings in Baghdad and its statement in which the PLO stressed its basic stands in light of the Palestinian National Council and Arab summit resolutions as well as the Palestinian peace initiatives. The Soviet side reviewed the Soviet Union's official stand, which agrees with the Palestinian and Arab stands.

A meeting will be held within the next few days between Brother Abu-Mazin and Comrade Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, to complete the meetings of the joint Palestinian-Soviet committee.

Nayif Hawatimah Meets Polyakov

JN2910163489 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 27 Oct 89 p 23

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Moscow—The day before yesterday [25 October], Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration, discussed in Moscow the latest Middle East developments and international political efforts to deal with the situation.

The two sides agreed that the current situation is very serious and concurred on the need for international efforts to end Israel's oppressive policy. They also agreed on the need to continue international efforts to prepare for the international conference and on the need for the PLO's participation in that conference.

Source Cited on PLO Meeting, 'Arafat-Tarasov Talks

JN2910202389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis throughout the night last night to discuss the latest developments concerning U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals on the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The PLO met only a few hours following 'Arafat's meeting with Gennadiy Tarasov, an adviser to the Soviet foreign minister. According to a Palestinian source, the 'Arafat-Tarasov talks dealt in particular with the latest developments concerning a settlement of the Palestinian problem, including Baker's plan. The source added that talks also centered on ways of establishing a better means of coordination to exchange information between the PLO and the USSR.

Tarasov yesterday met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and discussed the same topics the day before with a group of four Palestinian officials, including PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who leads the PLO delegation to the PLO-U.S. dialogue.

In this connection, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad— said that the PLO asked U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau at last Thursday's meeting to explain Baker's proposals.

A Palestinian source has revealed that the United States presented a proposal to the Soviet Union concerning the formation of the Palestinian delegation. The United States proposed that Palestinians who had been deported by the Israeli occupation authorities be members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and that PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih would announce their names as members of the Palestinian delegation. According to the same source, Gennadiy Tarasov conveyed this proposal to Yasir 'Arafat last September in the presence of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali but the Americans retreated from this proposal, as the source put it.

USSR's Polyakov Receives PFLP'S Habash 19 Oct

LD1910121189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Moscow, Oct 19 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Dr. George Habash met here today with Mideast and North Africa director at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Vladimir Polyakov.

Reliable sources told KUNA Polyakov stressed the importance of the continuation of the Uprising and the Soviet supportive stand for the Palestinian people's right to statehood through an international conference on the Mideast.

Polyakov said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker the importance of the PLO participation in Mideast peace efforts.

He said that the Israeli Likud bloc led by Shamir is the most intransigent force in Israel and Labor Leader Shiman Peres has no full plan for the settlement.

Habash underlined the need for escalating the uprising in the occupied land against the Israeli occupation and the importance of civil disobedience and political protection of the Intifadah.

The Palestinian leader reiterated rejection of Shamir's plan, Egyptian 10-point proposals and Baker's plan and called on the Arab leaders to put pressure on the United States to accept Palestinian legitimate rights and to stop its absolute support to Israel.

Abu-Sharif Accuses Israel of Anti-PLO Forgeries

JN2710153889 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, Oct.27, INA—Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, the information adviser of the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, accused Israel yesterday of forging documents in the pretence of being instructions issued by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to kill Palestinians in occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Tunis , Mr. Abu-Sharif was quoted as saying that they (PLO) are used, as well as the world public opinion, to the lies propagated by the Israeli intelligence aiming at distorting the image of the PLO before the world public opinion.

He pointed out that a statement made by an American intelligence official, falsifying these documents, as a proof of the lies made by Israeli 'Mosad'. [sentence as received]

Mr. Abu-Sharif added that Israeli authorities, in an effort to cover for its daily crimes against the Palestinians in the ocuppied territories by killing children, women and elderly people, fabricates these allegations.

It is to be noted that Moshe Arens, the Israeli minister of foreign affairs, gave the daily THE NEW YORK TIMES forged documents on the pretence that they are PLO orders to its followers to kill Palestinians accused to be Israeli agents.

U.S. 'Maneuvers' To Support Shamir's Plan

JN2810045089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1951 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Commentary by "the political editor"]

[Text] Abiding by a call from the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, the occupied homeland last week observed a full strike to give expression to a blanket Palestinian rejection of Shamir's plan and self-rule and the suspect American role represented by Secretary of State James Baker's plan. The strike followed resolutions of the Baghdad PLO Central Council which reiterated the rejection of the Shamir plan, restated the Palestinian position on Baker's five points, and reiterated adherence to the Palestinian peace plan as endorsed by the Palestine National Council.

While the Palestinians show constancy in their national stands and rally behind the Palestinian peace program, the Americans openly coordinate moves with the Zionist enemy to outflank the Palestinians and find a loophole in the Arab ranks to win support for Shamir's inauspicious plan. The Americans were active toward that end last week; their state secretary contacted regional powers, particularly the Zionist entity and its Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Having been thwarted in its attempt to undermine the Palestinian position, the U.S. State Department threatened to discontinue American peace efforts in the region. The threat comes as preparations are under way for a visit to Washington by Shamir. It also comes as news reports speak of mounting American support for the Zionist enemy. This means that the American threats are aimed at the Arab and Palestinian sides in a transparent blackmailing effort to promote Shamir's plan.

Such U.S. moves and maneuvers in the interest of Zionist occupation and repression and terror are nothing new. No one in the region has need of fresh evidence that Washington bears the largest share of the blame for the Zionist intransigence on current peace efforts just it was responsible for Israel's expansionist wars and capabilities for killing, aggression, and terrorism.

Washington, which is adept at wearing mantles of peace, has not changed. It is still the major foe of the Palestinian people and Arab nation. Our people know full well that if peace in the region is to be attained through Washington, this objective will remain elusive until the U.S. Administration realizes that no trick, pressure, or maneuver will avail in its drive to quell the intifadah of the Palestinian people or steer the Palestinian people away from their legitimate leaders—the PLO.

Through full strikes in the occupied homeland and resolutions of the PLO Central Council this week, the Palestinian people have shown that their unity is a tough nut to crack and that their will can withstand Washington's pressures and Shamir's terror. The Palestinians have further proved that their rallying behind their legitimate goals and the PLO is irreversible and that it is a realistic political option impossible to bypass in any political settlement that must provide for self-determination and statehood.

It remains for us to reiterate an established Palestinian fact. It is that as was the case with the revolution and the PLO the intifadah sprang from the heart of the Palestinian people and in response to their legitimate aspirations. For all its resources and influence, Washington shall not be able to find another mantle for the Palestinian people or other fake goals that fit in with the ideas of Shamir and the Zionist movement. Ours is a dynamic people whose roots in the region are as deep as religion, civilization, and geography. Our people's strength may not be a match for the U.S. aircraft and tanks at the disposal of Rabin's army. Our people's power, however, derives from the fact that they have right on their side and draw strength for their legitimate resistance from deep roots of their land, heritage, and history.

The road to victory may prove long and there will be need for further sacrifices. However, no sacrifice is too costly for the sake of Palestine. And there is no road other than the road of victory. This is the motto of the intifadah, the motto of the PLO and the entire Palestinian people.

PLO Denies Delegation Formed for Israel Talks

NC3010102389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—An official Palestinian source denied reports that the PLO has formed a delegation to negotiate with Israel, noting that such reports are absolutely false.

Recent reports said that the PLO had formed a delegation that included Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Akram Haniyah, member of the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council, as representatives from outside the territories. These two figures are deportees from the occupied territories. The reports had also named Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, as another member of the delegation.

Khalaf on Peace Efforts, Ties With Syria

JN2910130689 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Oct 89 pp 18-19

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf by 'A'ishah Rafi' in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Rafi'] A whole year is about to elapse since Yasir 'Arafat's declaration of the Palestinian peace initiative in Algiers last November and in Geneva the following month. What positive and what negative points has the Palestine question gained throughout this year?

[Khalaf] The main positive point is that we began to outflank Israel with peace and all its previous stands and talk about peace were rendered not serious. Hence, the Israelis began to be isloated in front of the world public opinion. Another positive point is that we initiated a strong presence in Europe and in more that one part of the world. All these quarters began to see in the Palestinian initiative a solution to the Middle East issue. The only negative point, in my opinion, is the stand of Israel, which began to maneuver, reject, and harden. This is in addition to the U.S. stand, which is biased toward Israel.

[Rafi'] On the international level, do you think the Palestine question is clear to the world community, or that there is more to be done before a comprehensive and just settlement can be reached?

[Khalaf] I believe that the major responsibility lies on the shoulders of the United States, which can bring hope of a solution. This does not mean that it alone is responsible for the solution; it means it is the basis. There should be international pressure on the United States before Israel so that a quick plan can be reached because our people cannot endure more. Over the past 2 years people have been killed or wounded in the occupied territories and our people continue to offer sacrifices. But if these people reach the point of despair, such despair will be destructive to them and to the whole issue of peace in the Middle East.

[Rafi'] The Palestinian intifadah is about to complete its 2d year. What guarantees its continuation under the daily Israeli repressive measures?

[Khalaf] No power can prevent people seeking the realization of their national rights from continuing their struggle regardless of the severity of repression. The Palestinian people offered sacrifices and martyrs and they know there is no other way but to continue the intifadah. They are fully aware that without the intifadah they will continue to live under occupation for tens of years and the Palestine question will remain unresolved for tens of years, too.

[Rafi'] The current diplomatic efforts are directed toward holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. What is the required general framework for the conclusion of this dialogue in a manner conducive to positive results?

[Khalaf] The ball now is in the Israeli court. We agreed to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on the sole condition that the Palestinian delegation should consist of Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories. Any idea to form the delegation only from the Palestinians living in the occupied territories will be unacceptable to us. If Israel accepts the principle of a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories, then let each of us can come without preconditions and let us hold dialogue on the best means to solve the Middle East issue.

[Rafi'] Do you think there could be an Israeli-Palestinian meeting without preconditions?

[Khalaf] I say this is the best thing, because if they say the Shamir plan we will reject it, and if we say the Algiers resolutions they may reject them and there will be no scope for us to sit together. In order to get out of this impasse, let us sit together and let each one of us say his ideas. This is better once there are true intentions to reach a real beginning for the sake of peace.

[Rafi'] One of the 10 Egyptian points addressed to Israel says Israel must accept the results of the elections in the occupied territories as they are. Some people have interpreted Israel's rejection of these points as stemming from its fear that it might end up sitting together with the PLO. What is your opinion on this interpretation?

[Khalaf] Israel will always find itself before the reality it is escaping; namely, the PLO. Israel knows full well that any dialogue it holds with any Palestinian is a dialogue with the PLO. There are not any Palestinians who do not belong to the PLO. This also goes for the agents Israel is recruiting. They will declare their allegiance to the PLO at the first opportunity they get. Therefore, Israel is deceiving itself, or is behaving like the one who does not want to see his face in the mirror.

[Rafi'] If we accept the principle that any dialogue held with a Palestinian is a dialogue held with the PLO, what will the outside Palestinians add to the projected Palestinian delegation?

[Khalaf] We say those inside and outside must be represented because Israel is telling the world community that the issue is one of an Arab minority inside seeking a solution. This would mean autonomy, ignoring the right to self-determination, and depriving four million Palestinians abroad of the right to have a homeland. It would mean treating their case as one of refugees who need to be resettled in one of the Arab states. But when the delegation includes one from outside, that will symbolize the unity of the cause. It will mean the existence of a single Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory. It will mean the right to self-determination. We are not saying that prominent members of the PLO should be included in the delegation. We are only saying any Palestinian from outside should be included.

[Raf'i] There was an earlier announcement about the participation of two American Palestinians in the Palestinian delegation. The names of Edward Sa'id and Ibrahim Abu Lughod were mentioned. Do you consider that a suitable solution?

[Khalaf] We accept any Palestinian from outside in order to reaffirm the principle of the unity of the cause and the unity of the Palestinian people and to disprove that the issue is one of an Arab minority inside Israel.

[Rafi'] Who will select these names?

[Khalaf] The PLO of course. No Palestinian will agree to take part in talks or negotiations affecting such a vital question without PLO approval. Everyone should know that any Palestinians taking part in any negotiations must belong to the PLO, even if they are told they have dropped down from heaven.

[Rafi'] What is your comment on what some political observers say that the Palestine question has witnessed a chain of missed opportunities over the past 4 decades and that the Arabs and the Palestinians must benefit from past lessons?

[Khalaf] Truly, had this question been asked 3 or 5 years ago, it would have been correct. Today, however, the question should be addressed to Israel, which is the one missing peace opportunities. We have given the world community everything it requested. We gave more than what Israel dreamed of. We accepted the principle of two coexisting states. We offered an unprecedented peace call by the Palestinian leadership. But Israel does not accept this call, which is supported by all Arabs.

[Rafi'] What will Israel gain from agreeing to a comprehensive settlement?

[Khalaf] It will then agree to an opportunity of life. The Palestinian victim agrees to recognize the one who encroached on his homeland and soil, and this has never happened before in history. It has not happened that an attacked people accepts to coexist with another in two states. It would not be fair or acceptable to the Palestinians to see the Israeli live in a state while the Palestinians are displaced.

[Rafi'] Do you agree with me that Israel will also obtain permanent peace and security?

[Khalaf] This is what I meant by saying two states. All that Israel lacks is the nonrecognition of the Arab states surrounding it. Now we are offering it a chance to live in peace and security, while demanding that the Palestinians, too, should have a state.

[Rafi'] What stand do you expect the Arab countries will adopt toward Israel if a comprehensive settlement for the Palestine question is reached?

[Khalaf] It is difficult to answer this question at present. But although I cannot speak on behalf of the Arab countries, I believe that once there are practical measures for a settlement leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the Arabs will agree to this solution. They will agree to coexist with the State of Israel if the latter agrees to be a nonbelligerent state and was satisfied with its present entity without expansionist ambitions.

[Rafi'] Recently and following the fourth round, the U.S.- Palestinian dialogue was said to be deadlocked rather than suspended. What changes can break this deadlock?

[Khalaf] I believe that breaking the present deadlock comes by changing the United States' full bias toward Israel. I do not, for example, ask the United States to sever its relations with Israel, but it should be objective. This will break the deadlock and restore the dialogue to its normal course. We found in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue many points of full agreement. The point which deadlocked the dialogue is the one on the foramtion of the Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories only. This is not the United States' viewpoint, but it adopted Israel's stand.

[Rafi'] Could you explain some of the facts according to which leader Yasir 'Arafat will apply for a U.S. entry visa or refrain from doing so?

[Khalaf] We do not want to be engaged in battles with anyone, particularly the United States. We were much displeased that 68 congressmen have asked the U.S. Administration not to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa. We are now studying this subject. Our stand toward it will not be determined by any signs of U.S. rejection or issuance of such a visa. What determines it is our people's interest and whether such a request will be useful or not.

[Rafi'] We need further clarification. When will it be useful and when will it not be useful?

[Khalaf] If the United States indeed wants to promote the peace process, then there will be no cause for battle with it or anyone else. The visa application will then be approved. But if the United States disavows all the principles declared by George Bush and James Baker, then there will be an open battle, and the world public will testify to its complete bias toward Israel.

(NB: The principles advocated by Bush are Israel's approval of the principle of land for peace, cessation of Israeli settlement building, and recognition of the political rights of the Palestinian people.)

[Rafi'] There are signs of an improvement in the relations between the PLO and Syria. How will that reflect on the Middle East issue?

[Khalaf] We have sought normal relations with Syria for a long time. Never have we tried to sever these relations or poison their atmosphere. Meetings took place in Belgrade between brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat—FBIS] and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam, and later between Faruq Qaddumi and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in New York. I believe what took place in New York recently was a continuation of what took place in Belgrade. We hope that a Palestinian delegation would visit the brothers in Syria and that all outstanding issues between us would be resolved. Syria is a major state in the Middle East. There can be no Middle East settlement without Syria. Syria will also a participant in any international conference.

[Rafi'] The Palestine question and the Lebanese crisis are a source of great anxiety for the Arab World. To what extent would a breakthrough in one lead to the resolution of the other?

[Khalaf] The link between the two issues stems from the presence of Israel and other forces in Lebanon. It is impossible to reach a settlement of the Palestine question with Syria without reaching a settlement with it in Lebanon. If a settlement of the Lebanese crisis is reached, or if a long truce follows, attention would be devoted to the Palestine question. The world is now torn between two issues. A resolution of the Palestine question is not possible without a settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

[Rafi'] How can Yasir 'Arafat's recent visits to Japan and China contribute toward backing the Palestine question?

[Khalaf] Japan has become an important state in view of its industrial and world status. Japan is also becoming more concerned with the Middle East issue. Japan recognizes the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. These stands are similar to those adopted by the Europeans in the Madrid Declaration. The purpose of this visit was to consolidate and develop these stands. I believe the visit was very successful.

As far as China is concerned, our relations with it are long- established. It is playing an important role in its capacity as permanent member of the UN Security Council. Following its open- door policy with Europe and the western world, China has become influential and carries weight in any political stand.

PLO Plans Sweeping Changes in Diplomatic Missions

JN2910210089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Oct 89 p 20

[By 'Atif 'Awdah]

[Text] Rabat—PLO sources report that the PLO leadership is planning to make comprehensive changes in PLO diplomatic missions, which number more than 100. The sources said these changes have become very necessary beause they will allow new cadres to assume the duties of PLO missions abroad.

These missions are distributed among more than 100 states and also include many embassies in the Arab countries, some African countries, and the nonaligned countries. The others are information offices and political missions, which also enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Sources have linked the effectiveness of these information and political missions with the need to reorganize these institutions.

A prominent Palestinian official has stated that the move is due to the absence of a new spirit in the PLO's missions and to the fact that officials in these missions hold their posts for a long time. He added that this lessens their initiative. There is a plan to make extensive changes in these missions, to transfer some directors and ambassadors, and to relieve some others of their posts as part of the comprehensive changes.

The PLO's Political Department, whose headquarters are located in Tunis and which is supervised by Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, is currently the scene of unusual activity and revision in which prominent Palestinian leaders are participating.

The PLO sources said the PLO missions in Kuwait, Morocco, West African countries, the Soviet Union, France, the United States, Britain, and the FRG will undergo radical changes in two areas: Some current directors will be transferred and the PLO's diplomatic missions will be imbued with a new spirit.

Palestinian factions such as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine stress the need to end Fatah's monopoly of these missions, to allow their cadres to takepart in them, and to benefit from independent nationalist figures. The PLO fully understands the need to make such changes.

A senior Palestinian official said that the Palestinian peace offensive and the PLO's diplomatic battle on more than one front require a new move and the PLO is preparing for that move.

The recent meeting of the PLO Central Council in Baghdad dealt with this issue.

The PLO sources added that there is similar criticism of the effectiveness of the Palestinian mass media, that the PLO's mass media will be reorganized, and that scores of the PLO's publications will also be reconsidered.

Algeria

Earthquakes Measure 5.5 on Richter Scale

LD2910224789 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] We start the details of the news bulletin with the two earthquakes which occurred this evening in Algiers; we gave you some information when they occurred.

A few moments ago, we learned from the Astronomy and Geophysics Research Center in Bouzerria that the strength of the two earthquakes which occurred about 2010 and 2025 [1910 and 1925 GMT] was 5.5 on the Richter Scale, and not, as we mentioned earlier, 6.6.

The center of the earthquake was at Oued-Djer west of El Affroun in the province of Blida.

We would like to tell our listeners that there is no need to fear, as other slight earthquakes are expected tonight or during the next 24 hours, which is natural and known to happen when any earthquake occurs.

The national radio correspondents are still touring the streets and suburbs of Algiers for more details which we will relay whenever we receive them.

Damage, Deaths Reported

LD2910233689 Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The extremely violent earthquake that shook Algeria and its region this evening has caused the collapse of blocks of apartments, and also a number of victims. On the line from Algiers is Claire Arsenaud Lers for France-Inter:

[Lers] The earth tremor that took place this evening in Algiers has already reportedly caused the death of at least nine people in the towns of Cherchell and Tipaza, located in the west of the capital. [passage omitted]

24 Dead, 157 Injured

LD3010094989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Our news since last night about the two earthquakes which hit the capital, Algiers, and the suburbs of the Governorate of Tipaza:

The land shook twice last night. The epicenter of the earthquake was Oued-Djer in the region of El Affroun, 60 km southwest of the capital. The areas hardest hit were Nador, Sidi Moussa, and (Chelwa) in the Governorate of Tipaza. According to available information, the number of casualties has reached 19 dead and 157 wounded in the Governorate of Tipaza.

After learning the news, Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche went to the Governorate of Tipaza to see the extent of the casualties left by the earthquake, and to oversee the measures being taken by the local authorities to confront the situation. Mouloud Hamrouche was told the latest provisional casualty figures which, as we stated, point to 57 dead and 157 injured, including 8 in serious condition. It is feared that these casualties may increase in the next few hours due to the difficulties which the rescue teams are finding in reaching the areas in the heart of the (Chelwa) hills. The reason for the casualties registered in such modern areas as the city of Hajoub can be attributed to the wave of fear and panic caused by the first earthquake last night. [passage omitted]

The latest figures concern the casualties from the two earthquakes. We will find out more in a few moments by contacting the National Gendarme and getting new reports. On the line, I think, is brother Saleh.

[Saleh] Good morning. The casualties in the Governorate of Tipaza have risen to 24 dead. The number of injured remains unchanged. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Addresses Council of Ministers

LD2910225389 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid gathered today the Council of Ministers at the Presidency to discuss a number of topics, the most significant of which were the measures relating to the running of the municipal and the state people's councils and a draft bill pertaining to reducing national military service to 18 months. The detailed report on the meeting with colleague Ahmed Ibrahim:

[Ibrahim] The Council of Ministers listened to a briefing about the government activity. [passage omitted] After that the general secretary of the national Defense Ministry submitted a draft of a special law on reducing the military service period to 18 months. In addition it was decided that all non-university graduate citizens born before the 31 December 1967 numbering 500,000, capable of enlisting in the national military service, who were absent will be exempted from the national service. On the other hand, and regarding citizens of 30 years of age and older and who are subject to the order of search, or were convicted for disobedience, according to Articles 15 to 21 of the national military service law, a draft amnesty law in their regard will be submitted to the National People's Assembly to consider them eligible but, unenlistable, for service. In general it was decided to reformulate the wording of the national service law taking into consideration the development of the country and the needs of national defense. [passage omitted]

After listening to a review of the outcome of the economic minister's visit to the Soviet Union, the Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction with the quality of the Algerian-Soviet relations and recorded with satisfaction the new prospects available to reinforce this cooperation.

The Council of Ministers then listened to a review by the justice minister and the deputy of the Supreme Judicial Council who presented the body's view regarding the amnesty measures which the president of the Republic intends to take on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the revolution. Special presidential pardon measures were taken relating to persons convicted by the State Security Council, who have exhausted all legal means of challenge.

On this occasion the president asked for legislative arrangements for a general amnesty for the offenses committed during the events of October, taking into account the preservation of the rights of the victims.

As the last topic on the agenda, the council listened to presentations following which the president has appointed Messrs: Ben Malik Abdelmoumen Fawzi as director of the treasury; Sarraj Mohamed, current wali of Skikda as a wali of Annaba; Siddik Mohamed Ohsan, current wali of Ghlezan as wali of Skikda; Ihriz Mohamed Salahheddine, current wali of Ouragla as wali of Ghlezan; Ziedouni Mohamed Chrif, general secretary of Sidi-Belabbas Wilayat as wali of Ourgela.

Foreign Minister Comments on Al-Ta'if Talks

LD2810214889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Excerpts] I just learned a few moments ago that president Chadli Bendjedid received a report today from Foreign Minister 'Sid Ahmed Ghazali on the results of his missions to Damascus and al-Ta'if. Following the audience, the foreign minister told the press that while in Damascus he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, with whom he considered the latest developments concerning the agreement on national concord especially the conditions for implementing them on the ground. The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations and ways of consolidating them while maintaining continuous contacts between the two governments on strengthening the necessary cooperation between them and on setting up a strong, stable, and unified Lebanese state. [passage omitted]

The minister added that the Lebanese deputies who have adopted the concord document must be praised for their spirit of courage and responsibility.

In reply to a question on the forthcoming phases for implementing the concord document, the minister pointed out that immediately following the signature of the al-Ta'if document, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the delegate of the Arab higher committee, resumed his journey to Beirut in order to continue his contacts with all the Lebanese sides concerned.

In reply to a question on General 'Awn's rejection of the national concord document, the foreign minister considers that this position is totally incompatible with that of the Christian side, and that should Michel 'Awn continue on this path, he will find himself isolated. [passage omitted]

Chinese Delegation's 22-28 Oct Visit Reviewed

LD2910125589 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 29 October—A Chinese delegation led by Minister of Water Resources Yang Zhenhuai visited Algeria from 22-28 October at the invitation of Minister of Equipment Cherif Rahmani. During his stay in Algeria, Yang Zhenhuai was received by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche. Yang Zhenhuai and the accompanying delegation visited many sites. During their visit, the Chinese delegation held talks with their Algerian counterparts. The talks focused on the state of bilateral cooperation concerning irrigation and its development. The Chinese delegation's visit concluded with the signing of a memorandum by the two ministers.

Egypt

Mubarak Praises 'Arafat, Condemns 'Threats'

NC2710140889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has praised the stands of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his eagerness to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

The president has also expressed his deep regret over contradictory statements by certain irresponsible Palestinian leaders, stressing that he does not tolerate threats.

Speaking to reporters today after visiting the Cairo international conference center with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], the president said: I do not wish to talk about who made these remarks, which unfortunately came as a surprise to us.

The president said some kind of agreement is necessary if a cause is to be defended or a topic discussed. No one should say what he likes after agreement has been reached on certain points, he said.

President Mubarak stated that Yasir 'Arafat is a man who honors his commitments. However, he added, other parties are making unnecessary statements which do nothing to promote the cause and in fact jeopardize it. I speak frankly and openly, he said.

Mubarak affirmed that Egypt is making enormous efforts for the sake of the Palestinian cause, adding that he will say nothing more than that such statements undermine all the efforts we are making.

Commenting on his talks with President Mubarak, the YAR president said: This is not the first time we have held talks. Consultations never cease between us in Baghdad, Sanaa, or Cairo.

Speaking to Egyptian and Yemeni reporters, President Salih said: We discussed our fraternal bilateral relations. Our views are largely identical on questions of cooperation and coordination, on bilateral issues, and on other issues which concern the Arab nation as a whole.

President Salih asserted that the talks have been very positive. He thanked President Mubarak and the Egyptian brothers for the hospitality accorded to him in Egypt.

Responding to a question on the role which YAR can play in improving relations between Egypt and Syria, President 'Abdallah Salih noted that there is no mediation at present. However, he added, we will not hesitate to make efforts if we are requested to do so. He asserted that any Arab country must do all it can.

Responding to a question on new developments in reuniting the two sectors of Yemen, the YAR president said that a number of proposals have been presented to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen so that the two sectors of Yemen can be reunited as soon as possible.

A MENA correspondent asked the YAR president about his reaction to the resumption of Egyptian-Libyan relations in view of the significant role he played in this. President Salih said: In fact the brothers in both Egypt and Libya demonstrated a common desire to resume relations. Hence we embarked on that brotherly role which is a national duty.

Responding to a question on the present Egyptian stand on the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak said: I would like to stress that we are making efforts to achieve certain goals for the Palestinian cause. We have agreed on these goals with the PLO leader, who is also the president of Palestine.

President Mubarak added: We are continuing our contacts with Yasir 'Arafat. In fact he is a man who honors agreements. We impose nothing on him. We discuss matters and, when we achieve results, we try to adopt a stand in coordination with all the parties concerned. However, after we conclude our talks and consultations we are surprised by statements by someone named George Habash who makes threats. Who is not threatening? We are not intimidated by threats. Does he think that such threats frighten us? When they talked to him and asked why he made such remarks about President Mubarak, he responded that in a statement somewhere President Mubarak said that he was ready to stop the intifadah in exchange for halting the establishment of Israeli settlements. Personally, I have never heard of such a statement. I never said that anyone can stop the intifadah, except perhaps by hoping for a solution. All these are false excuses. Everyone invents a statement. I do not know if he does this to serve the country in which he is staying or his personal interests. I do not understand.

President Mubarak continued: We want to hear one voice and one word so that we can determine our course. If the goal is to resolve the issue, we should speak with one voice. Contradictory statements only benefit hostile forces. I have nothing more to say.

President Mubarak asked: Do we or do we not want a solution? If we do, then we have to agree among ourselves. However, if you do not want a solution, let us not waste time.

Commenting on the UK's strict stand on the Third World debt, President Mubarak said that Britain has enough problems. He added: I am talking about the seven industrialized countries who have recently witnessed certain developments. I am not talking about Britain alone. The issue concerns Third World debt. It is the industrialized countries which are benefiting at the expense of the Third World, which they regard as a market for their products. Therefore, they have to find a solution to the problem.

Commenting on Yemeni mediation between Egypt and Syria, President Mubarak said: I discussed this with my brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and we have gone a long way in this regard.

Al-Hasan on Habash Remarks

NC2810091189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Relations Department, said that Egypt and the PLO are still in agreement and that consultations are continuing. He denied that any problems exist between the two leaderships and peoples.

Al-Hasan told a MENA correspondent that remarks made here and there by certain Palestinian leaders do not reflect the PLO's views. He referred in this context to statements made by George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Rafiq al-Natshah, Palestinian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, during the recent meeting in Jeddah of the information ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Al-Hasan emphasized that Al-Natshah represents only his personal views and that he does not express the views of the PLO.

Al-Hasan declined to disclose the questions presented by the PLO to the United States through Egypt, noting that the current stage is very critical for the Palestinian problem, and hence it is inadvisable to speak publicly about things which may have a bearing on the destiny of the Palestinian people.

Al-Hasan noted that the PLO has not yet called for an emergency Arab summit. He added that the PLO appeals to Arab leaders and heads of state to implement the decisions they made during their last summit meeting in Morocco last May on giving support to the intifadah and embarking on a collective Arab action at the international level.

Al-Hasan demands that a political Arab action be launched in the international arena, particularly in view of current events in the Bayt Sahur village which the Israeli authorities have recently isolated from the rest of the West Bank cities and villages. He also referred to the daily Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, their desecration of the Ibrahimi mosque, and the ongoing excavations at the mosque of the Holy Rock to find Solomon's Temple, noting that such excavations endanger these Islamic sanctities.

Khalid al-Hasan emphasized that the Middle East peace efforts will not achieve a solution unless the United Strates exerts real pressure on Israel. He expressed his conviction that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's forthcoming visit to Washington will not lead to any result unless the U.S. Administration compels him to continue with the peace process.

Khalid al-Hasan pointed out that the U.S. Administration cannot possibly exert such pressure because of the long-term U.S.-Israeli strategic interests.

Regarding Israel's recent moves, Khalid al-Hasan affirmed that the Israeli leaders realize that this is the final phase and for this reason they are trying by all means to raise obstacles vis-a-vis any efforts designed to vindicate the Palestinian people's national and political rights. He emphasized that the Palestinian people's will shall prevail and that they will realize their wishes, aspirations, and right to establish their free and independent state.

Khalid al-Hasan noted that the Fatah Central Committee will meet under President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis this evening to complete the internal regulations, assign tasks to its members, and appoint three members, according to the decision adopted during the Fatah 5th General Congress, which provided for increasing the number of the members of the Central Committee to 21.

Khalid al-Hasan left Cairo for Tunis yesterday evening after a visit of several days to Egypt.

Bendjedid Congratulates Mubarak on Tubruq

NC2910112689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1101 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has asserted that the meetings in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will certainly mark the beginning of a new era of fraternal relations characterized by mutual trust, good neighborliness, and warmth which will realize the sublime goal of Arab solidarity.

In a congratulatory cable to President Mubarak, the Algerian president said that the positive results of these meetings represent an important event and a starting point for a joint Arab action to remove all the obstacles which hinder ongoing efforts to build an integrated and harmonious Arab society capable of facing challenges.

The Algerian president expressed his confidence that the results will reflect positively on the OAU, by enhancing its unity and guiding it to acceptable solutions for the various issues. [passage omitted]

'News Analysis' Views Libyan-Italian Tension

NC2810103889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Amirah Fahmi news analysis]

[Text] The murder of an Italian citizen in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, has worsened the mounting tension between Libya and Italy. The tension has been caused by Libyan demonstrations staged to mourn the victims of the era of Italian colonization of Libya which began in 1911 when Libya was part of the Ottoman empire. Libya declared the anniversary of the occupation a day of national mourning. Libyan citizens organized marches in Libya and Italy. Hundreds of Libyans went to Italy to eulogize the victims of the Italian occupation of Libya. They included Muhammad 'Umar al-Mukhtar, the son of the Libyan national leader 'Umar al-Mukhtar. About 800 Libyans went to the port of Naples aboard a ship wrapped in black. However, the Italian authorities did not allow them to land because they did not have entry visas.

Libya maintains that Italy deported 5,000 Libyans during the period from 1911 to 1943 to use them as cheap labor. Libya demands reparations for the minefields which Italy planted in the Libyan desert to thwart the Allied attack during World War II. Italy, however, says that the issue of reparations was legally resolved on the basis of an agreement reached with King Idris al-Sanusi. Libya obtained its independence in 1951 during the reign of King Idris who was overthrown during the 1 September 1969 revolution that was led by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

YAR's Salih Receives Official Send-Off

NC2810110489 Cairo MENA in English 0735 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (MENA)—North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih wound up his 3-day official visit to Egypt today, which came at the invitation of Presdient Husni Mubarak.

President Salih was accorded an official send-off at the Republican Palace this morning.

Presidents Mubarak and Salih later drove in a car to Cairo International Airport where the two leaders boarded a special plane to Sharm Al-Shaykh, on a lightning visit to Sinai, during which the distinguished Yemeni guest will review a major part of the peninsula before flying back home.

Economic, Technical Accord Signed With Panama

NC2810121089 Cairo MENA in English 1115 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (MENA)—Egypt and Panama signed today at the premises of the Ministry of International Cooperation an agreement on bilateral economic and technical cooperation.

An official source at the ministry said the agreement expresses the two countries' wish to develop bilateral ties in the economic and technical fields according to potentialities and requisites of the two countries' national economy. The source said that according to this agreement, cooperation between the two sides will take place through joint ventures and exchange of know-how and experts.

The accord also stipulates the setting up of a joint committee on economic and technical cooperation to supervise the implementation of the agreement and overcome any obstacles that may appear, the source added.

Israeli-South African Nuclear Cooperation Noted

NC2810123689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1214 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt and the African countries are following, with concern, news about nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa, and that they do not believe Israeli and South African denials of such cooperation.

In press statements today, Dr Ghali said that what matters is not public statements, but actions. If Israel is honest in its statements and really has the goodwill, it should sign the international agreement on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons which has been signed and ratified by Egypt and the majority of African countries, he said.

Israeli Radio Reports on Baker Plan Denied

JN2810143289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Egypt has denied Israeli radio reports that amendments have been introduced to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan on an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. This came in a telephone conversation with a well-informed source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Israeli radio reported that the U.S. secretary of state had given up consultations with Egypt and Israel on how to form the Palestinian delegation to the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. The radio said that the U.S. secretary of state had proposed that a Palestinian delegation come to Cairo to discuss the question of elections in the occupied Arab territories, and that an Israeli delegation come to Cairo after the Palestinian delegation was approved.

Israeli radio added that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens would receive a copy of the U.S. secretary of state's new proposal.

Captain of Panamanian-Flagged Tanker Arrested

JN2910120089 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Oct 89 pp 1, 11

[By 'Ala' al-Wakil]

[Text] Under a warrant issued by the Public Prosecution Office [PPO], the Panamanian ship which dumped waste and diesel oil into the Red Sea 3 days ago, has been seized. The ship's captain, who turned out to be an Israeli, had refused to surrender to the police, so he was apprehended and sent to the PPO. The PPO ordered that the ship be held and banned from leaving our territorial waters until the investigation is over.

The naval police informed the South Sinai Security Directorate and competent authorities 3 days ago that the Panamanian-flagged oil tanker "Nyeta" had dumped waste and diesel oil into the Red Sea. An Italian mine sweeper affiliated with the multinational force witnessed the ship dumping waste 7 km south of Tiran Island and a diesel oil spill covering an area of 50 square meters [as published], which was moving toward the Ra's Nasrani area and threatening the Sharm al-Shaykh, al-Ghurdaqah, and Shadwan areas.

Informed by the mine sweeper of the incident, the PPO ordered that the captain of the ship be apprehended as soon as the ship was located.

The ship was seen yesterday off the Esso Port in the Jabal al-Zayt area while being loaded with crude oil. When the ship's captain, who holds Israeli citizenship, was told to disembmark at the orders of the PPO, he declined and sent a telex to the owners of the ship to inform them of the PPO's decision.

The ship was seized and banned from leaving the territorial waters. The captain was apprehended and escorted to the Ra's Gharib police department from where he will be taken to the PPO.

Policy Committee Approves 12 Agreements

NC2810220289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] At a meeting this evening chaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the Higher Committee on Policy and Economic Affairs approved 12 agreements reached during the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Sanaa in September. This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He said that these agreements relate to cooperation and coordination among Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemeni Arab Republic in the fight against drugs, the bolstering of economic relations, the achievement of coordination and integration in the fields of agriculture, housing, and reconstruction, and the organization, employment, and transfer of manpower among the four countries.

The information minister pointed out that the higher committee also approved an increase in the capital of the Egyptian-Sudanese company for agricultural integration of $8 million and 22.5 million Sudanese pounds. It also approved an agreement to establish a Moroccan-Egyptian company for development and investment. The company will fund a number of projects in Egypt and Morocco. The committee approved two agreements abolishing dual taxation between Egypt and the FRG and Egypt and Denmark. It approved the establishment of an Iraqi cultural center in Cairo. It endorsed a guarantee agreement concluded between Egypt and the European Investment Bank to fund a number of ventures in the field of electricity. It approved an agreement between Egypt and the Arab Fund for Economic Development on financing the expansion of the paper pulp factory in the the city of Idfu. The committee also ratified the agreement concluded between Egypt and the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development on financing the development of Egyptian iron and steel factories.

The committee also approved an agreement concluded between Egypt and Japan on the development of primary education in Egypt at a cost of 42 million yen.

UN Draft Resolution on Western Sahara Welcomed

NC2910130089 Cairo MENA in English 1233 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 29 (MENA)—Egypt today welcomed a draft resolution of the UN General Assembly on the Western Sahara problem that was agreed upon by the imperialism liquidation committee, an affiliate to the General Assembly.

In a statement to MENA, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali underlined that agreement in viewpoints between Morocco and Algeria reflects the two countries wise policy and firm will in maintaining peace and solidarity in North Africa area.

He added that the draft resolution contributes to fostering efforts exerted by President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as the chairman of the organisation of African Unity to reach a peaceful settlement of this problem as soon as possible in accordance with UN resolutions.

He said the draft resolution aims at encouraging resumption of talks that started between Morocco and the Polisario earlier this year, as that would contribute to restoring stability in the Western Sahara and pave the way for holding a UN sponsored referendum.

PLO's Al-Hurani Meets 'Abd-al-Majid, Comments

NC2910141989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister today. After the meeting, Al-Hurani said that Palestinians have always acted in line with the consultations they hold with Egypt concerning the peace efforts and will continue to do so in the future.

Al-Hurani noted that his meeting with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid is in the context of the almost regular meetings between the PLO leaders and Egyptian officials. The Palestinians, he added, are constantly holding consultations with Egypt.

Al-Hurani said: We have conveyed the PLO's position to Dr 'Abd- al-Majid and assured him of our confidence in Egypt and in Egypt's role and of our desire that Egypt would continue its efforts to keep the peace momentum. The Egyptian efforts, he said, aim at helping the Palestinian people achieve their national rights, foremost their right for self-determination, and at ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Concerning the amendments which are said to have been introduced to the proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Al-Hurani said that the PLO has not been notified of any proposals and is still holding consultations with Egypt concerning this issue.

As for the formation of the Palestinian delegation, Al-Hurani said that he does not think that anyone but the Palestinian people and the PLO have the right to form that delegation, adding that if someone thinks he can form a delegation from inside the territories, let him do so.

Asked about the prospects for progress on the issue of forming the Palestinian delegation, Al-Hurani said that it may not be useful to go into such detail for the time being.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Al-Hurani and a Palestinian delegation comprising Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of Palestine in Cairo, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo.

Papers Criticize 'Flat' Palestinian Voices

NC2910080489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo 29 Oct (MENA)—Addressing Palestinians who are making statements that do not serve the Palestinian cause, Cairo dailies call on them to be more committed and to coordinate with Arab diplomatic efforts which succeeded in placing the Palestinian issue on the road to a just and comprehensive solution, and in backing the opposite party into a corner.

Today's papers call for eliminating the discord in the Palestinian ranks, because it ruins the cause.

Under the headline "Arab Commitment and the Peace Battle," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that it is strange that certain voices should try to shun the agreed commitments and make statements that do not serve the cause, after Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat launched his peace initiative from the UN platform in Geneva, gaining more ground for the cause and tightening the trap in which the Israelis have placed themselves. The paper adds that such statements abort the enormous efforts of Egyptian diplomacy in coordination with the Palestinian leadership, which are about to bear fruit.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Egypt has repeatedly affirmed that it will not impose a solution on the Palestinians and that it will not talk on their behalf, but that it will engage in consultations for the sake of the cause. Thus, it is necessary for Arabs to meet the requirements of the peace battle by acting as one, so that Arab efforts and this precious opportunity for establishing a just peace will not be wasted.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes the need for clear conscientiousness among the Palestinians at this decisive phase of their struggle.

The paper points out that the state of discord which has afflicted the Palestinian ranks, turning them into conflicting factions, has done more harm to the Palestinian cause than all attempts by their enemies and rivals.

AL-AKHBAR maintains that certain elements, who unlawfully belong to the Palestinian people, have deformed the struggle of this people and helped draw a false image of the sincere Palestinian strugglers who had dedicated their lives and efforts to restoring their usurped rights.

In this regard, the paper recalls the image that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his aides drew for the real Palestinian struggle and the just demands and objectives. This image gained in a short time more sympathy and support for the cause than the hesitant stands and the false heroics that adopt violence and terrorism and harvest more innocent Palestinian victims.

The paper concludes that only what is right will be upheld. "For the scum disappears like froth cast out, while that which is for the good of mankind remains." [Koranic verse]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Grants Interview to Italian TV

LD2810233889 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2023 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by unidentified Italian television correspondent on 27 October; place not given—recording of interview originally broadcast live by Italian television channel two; correspondent speaks in Italian with passage-by-passage Arabic translation]

[Text] [Correspondent] Good evening, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We thank you very much for accepting our invitation to take part in this live interview with TG2. This is the first time that such an event is taking place and we are very grateful to you.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Good evening.

[Correspondent] The killing of an Italian national has provoked a strong feeling in Italy. We already know the first elements the Libyan authorities have provided us. Are you ready to provide us with exclusive information, because the Italians living in Libya are extremely worried in this climate they consider hostile? Can you reassure them?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have not heard about this incident and I am sorry that such an incident has happened. When did it happen?

[Correspondent] This Italian national was killed 2 days ago.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I hope that he has secured his life.

[Correspondent] What does it mean? It is not clear.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I mean I hope that he has taken out a life insurance policy so that his family can benefit.

[Correspondent] Are you, or are you not aware that an Italian national was killed?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No. This is the first time I have heard about this.

[Correspondent] This is incredible! Has the ambassador not informed you of this? The Libyan ambassador to Italy, in Rome, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, which voiced the government's protest. Has the Libyan ambassador not told you anything?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Maybe he has told the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, to which he is affiliated, or the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, or the General People's Committee. I have already said that I am not a president of the Republic nor a prime minister. He only informs the bodies to which he is affiliated.

[Correspondent] Has the Libyan press not talked about this?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I do not read the newspapers.

[Correspondent] The Italian people have a deep feeling of friendship for the Libyan people, especially regarding to the work that has been achieved, such as the building of houses, the construction of roads, and the other projects. We wonder whether the Libyan people share the same feelings.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Certainly. As far as the present is concerned, there are feelings of friendship and a spirit of mutual cooperation. Billions are made by the Italian companies operating in Libya. There are more than 50 Italian companies and thousands of Italians working in Libya. One-third of Libyan exports go to Italy and one-third of Libyan imports come from Italy. This proves that there is great cooperation between the two countries.

[Correspondent] From your perspective, why has the campaign of pressures regarding the problem of compensation for war damages been aggravated and what are your demands? As the foreign minister says in reply to this question....

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] You will find the question on the sheet of paper in front of you.

[Correspondent, continuing]...the focus on the damage problem has increased. What, in brief, are your demands in this regard, knowing that the Italian Government believes that the matter ended with the 1956 agreement signed by the Libyan Government of that era?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I expect that these feelings, which are characterized by bitterness, will be renewed every year and will intensify with the years so long as the Libyan people do not obtain something that satisfies them because Libya became independent only after the revolution. It was colonized by Italy and came under the Allied Forces after the expulsion of Italy at the end of World War II, and only became independent with the revolution, since the expulsion of foreign forces took placed after the revolution. Consequently, for the first time the Libyan people have opened their dossiers and seen their right and duties from and toward the international community. This is on one hand. On the other, Libya did not face a traditional colonization, but an Italian law was issued, [words indistinct]. From this stance, the Libyan citizens have the right to demand all the Italian citizens have. The operation of tyranny required draining Libya of its inhabitants. Before the fascist era, Italy had three methods for achieving this. It transported thousands of them to Italy, and they all died there. Perhaps they have grandsons and sons still in Italy now, and we are looking for them now. The other group [word indistinct] in mass concentration camps, such as the camp of Al-'Aguila, Magrun, and Saluk. These are famous. They started to chase the third group with aircraft and military campaigns with the aim of annexing Libya completely. Afterwards, Italy tried to hold on to Libya during World War II and scattered mines in its territory, particularly during the operation of withdrawal before the British 8th Army. These mines killed a number of Libyans equal to the number of Libyans killed by Italy during the colonization. These mines still exist, and yesterday and the day before a number of Libyans died from these mines. Even during visits to these fields by journalists, some mines exploded and killed some Libyan families. They will continue to kill Libyans so long as they exist on Libyan soil. From this premise, the Libyan people cannot possibly forget this. The treaty of 1956 is an agreement, not a treaty [word indistinct]. If in 1956 Italy recognized its responsibility for the period of colonization, Italy thus now recognizes its responsibility. However, if the 1956 agreement had no relation with the compensation for the period of colonization, we now demand this compensation and we want the Italian people to read the 1956 agreement. The essence of this agreement talks about the necessity to sign a treaty between the two countries which would end the problems of the past and open a road for the future. This is what we are demanding now, and we are committed to the implementation of the 1956 agreement. In this agreement, there is only assistance to be given by the Italian Government to the new Libyan Government limited to a sum of 1 and a ½ million francs, dinars, or dollars, and does not contain any words on compensation. On the whole, we are committed to this agreement and we want its implementation because it stipulates the necessity for a treaty between the two countries to settle the accounts of the past and to create an atmosphere enabling fruitful cooperation between the two countries. This is a special situation Libya faces, which is different from that faced by any other state.

[Correspondent] Twenty thousand Italians were also expelled from Libya. You, the Libyan Government, the Tripoli Government, nationalized their possessions.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] They were colonizers who exterminated Libyan farmers and raped their farms. As a result of their taking over of the farms of the Libyans whom they had killed, they created a wealth with which they opened up shops, factories, and other businesses and acquired properties. These expropriated properties were returned to their original owners. They [the colonialists] did not come from Italy with farms or with real estate. They came from Italy with rifles and knives. These are monies which were returned to their owners. This is a small proportion of the Libyan wealth the Italians had expropriated. They smuggled cash to Italy, and nothing was left except the real estate, which is part of Libyan territory.

[Correspondent] Is it true that you were unaware of the dispatch to Naples of the Libyan ship [ghurnatah], the ship which carried 800 persons to Naples without entry visas and the dispatch of which even the Italian Government was unaware of. Were you aware of the dispatch of the ship?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I heard that a large number of Libyans began to go to Italy to look for the graves of their families, to inspect the prisons in which they had been, to look for their sons and nephews, and to demand their rights. I heard this information. It was only today that I heard that there was a ship on which there were Libyan citizens who were being returned form the port of Naples. I do not know why Italy made the Libyans return, in spite of the fact that they included women and elderly people who are moved by their families' exile to Italy and the latter's collective death in Italian prisons. I was surprised the ship was returned without allowing the passengers to disembark. I would like Italy to present justifications for this. These people have power; they are members of people's congresses and people's committees. Consequently, they might treat Italy likewise. They may stand in the ports and prevent the Italian ships from anchoring. We do not want this to happen. I hope there will be a convicing justification. The passengers were only a few hundred in number, and had they stood on Italian soil they would have certainly put themselves at the disposition of the Italian authorities. So, frankly, I was very moved by their return, which created a very, very bad reaction among the Libyan people and among all the Arab peoples. It also created a negative reaction among all the peoples who heard of this incident, and did very great harm to Italy's international reputation. It added another bad thing to Italy's black file, which exists as a result of its historical crimes in Libya. We would have liked that not to happen.

[Correspondent] Excuse me, Colonel. I am not the Italian Government, but in my capacity as a journalist, I will report what you just said. During my meeting with Foreign Minister de Michelis a little while ago, it transpired that a number of Libyans applied for visas and obtained them, while those who did not apply for visas did not obtain them and could not, obviously, enter the country. Consequently, we are surprised that you are astonished that the Italian nationals who get to the Libyan ports cannot enter without a visa. They can only enter if they abide by the laws in force in your country.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] But when the Italian ships came on that day, loaded with Italians who disembarked in Tripoli and Benghazi, did they have entry visas?

[Correspondent] Anyway, these are the laws in force in Italy. Listen Colonel, your statements that you do not support terrorism—as you used to in the past—have been welcomed in Italy since you specifically stated that the terrorism—which you have stopped supporting—did not serve the Arab cause and consequently it was judged negatively.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Sorry, was?

[Correspondent] Was in a negative position.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What is this question?

[Correspondent] Your statements that you did not support terrorism then and that this did not serve the Arab cause. One day you said that you did not support terrorism and that it did not serve the Arab cause.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] And?

[Correspondent] What else can you say about this? Italy was a victim of terrorism, and the possibility is not excluded that some of these acts were perpetrated by elements whom you helped.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We assist those who fight for freedom and independence, and we still support them and we will not go back on it. Regarding terrorism, we are against it. We distinguish between terrorism and liberation movements. It is misleading to confuse terrorism with liberation movements.

[Correspondent] But when this concerns innocent people or children, as was the case in Rome in the synagogue when some people were killed by a liberation movement, this becomes debatable.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Those who committed this act cannot be held responsible. Moreover, a people against whom terrorism was carried out and who were driven out of their homes cannot be blamed for their acts. The Palestinians are victims of Israeli terrorism.

[Correspondent] But not of the Italians nor of the Italian Republic, which has nothing to do with the fascist regime.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is not only fascism which has carried out terrorism. The terrorism which was carried out against us from 1911 through 1922 was not carried out by fascism. It was Italy before fascism. Moreover, fascism fell during World War II and Mussolini was executed, yet Italy continued its occupation of Libya and named it Rome's fourth coast. It did not leave unitl it was defeated in World War II by the Allied forces and the Libyan resistance.

[Correspondent] This was one Italian regime, and this is the Italian Republic now. Italy is now following a realistic policy based on a frank dialogue with the neighboring countries. How does your country intend to respond to this constructive attitude?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Instead of looking for who is responsible, we must look to the future. Regardless of who should assume the responsibility of the past—is it fascist Italy, the Italian Republic, or the Italian monarchy—it is irrelevant, because it gives nothing to the future. What is more, the Libyan people stick to their rights. If these people do not receive satisfaction, there will be a question mark over the future between the two countries and the Mediterranean [as heard]; and between the entire Arab nation and Italy; also between the Arab nation as a whole and Western Europe, and even between the entire Muslim nation and Italy and Europe, because yesterday from Senegal to Indonesia a prayer for the dead was read and the Muslim nation proclaimed a day of mourning. Today in all the mosques of the Muslim countries, this abominable crime [the deportation of Libyans] was denounced. The Libyan people were also supported in their just demand. We would like to build the road of the future toward peace, cooperation, and friendship. This can only be achieved if the Libyan people receive satisfaction; this is what must be discussed. The question whether it was the Italian monarchy or the Italian Republic which was responsible is irrelevant.

[Correspondent] In this international atmosphere of improved relations between East and West, why do we have to create tension in the Mediterranean with a country like Italy, which has good relations with all the states, and in particular the Maghreb states and the Arab countries situated on the shores of the Mediterranean? You yourself recently met with President Mubarak and those relations have improved. Why do we look to the past? As Minister de Michelis said: We must look to the future to find ways to develop the future on the path of peaceful cooperation.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We agree on all this, but in order to build the future with cooperation, we must resolve this problem. We did not create this problem. It was created by Italy. We cannot forget. We have people whose relatives died in Italy and whose fate is unknown. Let us not forget those who are killed today and will be killed tomorrow by the mines which Italy laid in their soil. We cannot oblige them to forget. The only solution is to satisfy the Libyan people in order to save the future.

[Correspondent] Now to conclude, you said that you are astonished and that you did not know about this Italian, who was a close friend of Italy [as heard] and about his killing. Now that you know, if the murderer of this Italian national is found what kind of sentence do you expect for this type of criminal?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] (?A sentence which is) in accordance with the Libyan laws. This is irrespective of the fact that the victim is Italian or Libyan or any other nationality. It is a murder, and the reasons behind this abominable crime must be investigated. In fact, this is unusual in Libya. Libya is set as an example for safety, and people feel safe about their lives and property more than anywhere else in the world. This is a strange incident, and I do not believe.... [changes thought] Maybe it was committed by non-Libyans. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for taking part in this live interview with TG2. What you have said will be conveyed, and then it is the task of the Italian Government to look into this issue and reply to this thesis. Thank you and good evening.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This will serve the future of the two countries. Thank you.

Further on Al-Qadhdhafi Comments

AU2810160089 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Rome, Oct 28 (AFP)—Relations between Italy and Libya were at their worst for several years Saturday after an interview in which Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi derided a young Italian murdered in Tripoli and threatened Italy for failing to pay compensation for its colonial occupation of Libya.

The Italian press called the interview broadcast Friday evening on Italian television a deliberate "provocation" while Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said Col al-Qadhdhafi's remarks "spoke for themselves." He said Italy would take "the necessary measures" to reply to Col al-Qadhdhafi who recently returned to the fray over the "compensation" claim which Italy argues was settled in 1956 with Libya's former ruler King Idriss [as received].

Col al-Qadhdhafi struck a particularly sensitive chord among Italians when he remarked derisively that he hoped that Roberto Ceccato, a technician found dead in Tripoli Wednesday, had "taken out life insurance." Press reports said the young man had incurred multiple stab wounds and that his murderers had set fire to his body. IL MESSAGERO said the murder was a result of "the climate of hatred against Italy" now prevailing in Libya. The murder has raised fears for the safety of Italian expatriates working for an estimated 100 Italian firms in Libya.

Col al-Qadhdhafi said a "big question mark" would arise over the future of the Mediterranean unless Libya's demands for compensation were satisfied. He complained particularly about Italy's refusal to let in 840 "pilgrims" who sailed to Italy without visas on Thursday to commemorate Libyan "martyrs" during the colonial era. The Italian authorities refused to let the 840 disembark because they had no visas.

Col al-Qadhdhafi threatened to retaliate by barring Italian ships from Libyan ports. "It is possible Libyans will do likewise with Italian ships," he said. Col al-Qadhdhafi is claiming compensation and war damages for the colonial occupation of Libya which lasted from 1912 until 1945. Libya maintains that 4,000 Libyans were deported to Italy during the colonial era and that 100,000 families have filed compensation claims. In 1987, he threatened to claim the Adriatic Tremiti Islands as Libyan territory because he said all the inhabitants were descendants of deported Libyans.

BPC's Deliver Memorandum to Italian Consulate

LD2610235389 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Al-Tumur [October] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic People's Congresses [BPC] in Benghazi this morning delivered a memorandum to the Italian consulate in Benghazi determining and asserting the legitimate and just claims of the Libyan Arab people after a popular march on the occasion of the day of mourning.

The memorandum was handed over to the Italian consul by the secretary for the affairs of the Basic People's Congresses in Benghazi.

Nicaraguan Minister Begins Visit to Libya

LD2910143889 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Henry Ruiz Hernandez, member of the Revolutionary Command and minister of foreign cooperation in Nicaragua and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamhiriyah. Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi led those who welcomed the Nicaraguan member of the Revolutionary Command.

Henry Ruiz Hernandez made a statement to JANA. He conveyed the greetings of the Nicaraguan people and those of President Daniel Ortega to the Libyan Arab people and to the leader of its great revolution. He expressed the Nicaraguan people's appreciation and admiration at the firm revolutionary stands of the people of the Great Jamahiriyah. He pointed out that this visit comes within the framework of the completed talks between President Daniel Ortega and the brother leader during the former's participation at the popular festivities of the 20th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih revolution. He said: We are present here on the soil of the Jamahiriyah to share this noble and brotherly stand with the Libyan Arab people, and to continue these talks which previously have been agreed upon. He stressed that there are mutual friendship bonds, mutual cooperation, and mutual interests. These possibilities will be studied during this visit, to deepen these bonds and discuss new matters.

Henry Ruiz Hernandez expressed his hope to reach mutual positive results for the benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Mauritania

President Taya Returns From Visit to Iraq

AB2710175989 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state returned to Nouakchott [words indistinct]. Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya returned from Iraq, where he paid a visit during which he participated, along with several other Arab leaders, in festivities commemorating the inauguration of the al-Faw reconstruction drive. Upon his return, the head of state was greeted by the minister of interior, post, and telecommunications, Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi; members of the military and civilian households of the head of state; the government delegate; and officials of [words indistinct]. Col Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya later greeted members of the CMSN and the top personalities who came to welcome him. [passage omitted]

Arrest of Africans Linked to 'White Paper'

AB2610150089 Paris AFP in French 1831 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Dakar, 25 Oct (AFP)—Several dozen African executives were recently arrested in Nouakchott, various sources yesterday disclosed in Dakar. According to the sources, most of these arrests were carried out at night in the Mauritanian capital. A communique published by the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania, FLAM—an armed group opposed to the Mauritanian Government—and received by AFP in Dakar also reports arrests in early October in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. The communique links the arrests to the publication of a white paper by FLAM on the plight of black Mauritanians. This white paper is available in Paris, but not yet in Dakar, observers noted.

Sources also report that the atmosphere is constantly tense in the River Senegal region along the border between Mauritania and Senegal. According to these sources, clashes have almost become a daily affair on the Mauritanian bank of the River Senegal, as a result of people crossing over from the Senegalese side to engage in extortion or to seek reprisals in Mauritanian territory. Most of the incursions are reported to be the work of individuals belonging to the Popular Tribe—refugees or persons expelled from Mauritania, who constitute the majority of the FLAM—who probably return to Mauritania to retrieve their cattle, fight the people living on the banks of the river, or "settle scores" with the Mauritanian security forces following the massive expulsion of black Africans by Mauritania. The incursions have been confirmed in Nouakchott by well-informed sources who deplore the failure of the Senegalese law enforcement agencies to check them.

The expulsion of black Africans from Mauritania came in the wake of the incidents which put Senegal and Mauritania at loggerheads in April. The conflict began as a quarrel between livestock breeders and farmers, degenerated, and eventually caused several hundred deaths on both sides of the river. The two neighbors, "bound to live together," to borrow an expression often used by politicians of both countries, broke diplomatic relations in August.

Observers are disturbed by the deteriorating situation on the river, recalling that with the level of water beginning to subside, problems could increase because it will be easier to cross the river. Mauritanian security forces have begun shooting at canoes that venture out from the Senegalese bank of the river, a very reliable source said in Dakar. The area along the river may for a long time remain a "point of tension" where a major clash between the two countries could start, diplomatic sources in Dakar observed.

Army Chief To Ensure 'Territorial Integrity'

AB2810204989 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] According to an authoritative source speaking in an exclusive interview with Africa No 1 radio, the chief of general staff of the Mauritanian Armed Forces has received orders from his minister of defense and from President Maaouiya Sid'Ahmed Taya to ensure that Mauritania's territorial integrity is strictly respected in view of the fact that it has been affirmed in Nouakchott that the armed bands that cross into the country from Senegal are aided and supported by the Senegalese Army. However, the leader of the Senegalese opposition, Mr Abdoulaye Wade, has just stated in a Near East newspaper that nothing can separate the Senegalese and Mauritanian people and that the river along which these clashes are occurring should be a link and not a source of senselessness and confrontation. On the line is our correspondent in Nouakchott, Salem Mejbour Salem:

[Begin Salem recording] The Senegalese Army is aiding and actively participating in the frequent infiltrations into Mauritanian territory. This was disclosed by a well-informed source in the Mauritanian capital. The same source added that the Mauritanian president, who is also minister of defense, gave firm instructions to the chief of general staff of the Mauritanian Armed Forces to ensure that territorial integrity is strictly respected. The source noted that the armed conflict between Senegal and Mauritania has not yet been launched on the Mauritanian side. But Nouakchott reserves the right to defend firmly its territorial integrity, and if it is confirmed that armed gangs from Senegal [words indistinct] and take away cattle are being supported militarily by the Senegalese Armed Forces.

Nouakchott recalled that such acts can only aggravate a situation that has already damaged relations between Dakar and Nouakchott. [Words indistinct] on the Senegal-Mauritania border on a true armed conflict, come at a time when the OAU ad hoc committee on the Senegal-Mauritania conflict is expected to visit Dakar and Nouakchott in a few days. Its mission seems particularly difficult.

Having said this, the government newspaper in Nouakchott, CHAAB, reported in its Saturday issue on an interview of the leader of the Senegalese opposition, Mr Abdoulaye Wade, granted to the Lebanese magazine (AL SUBUR AL ARABI). In that interview, Mr Abdoulaye Wade discussed the dispute between Senegal and its neighbors—Guinea Bissau, Gambia, and Mauritania in particular. Speaking about the Senegal-Mauritania conflict, the general secretary of the Senegalese Democratic Party stated that the Senegalese regime has led this dispute into an impasse by bringing into question the border between the two countries.

We must, Mr Abdoulaye Wade stated, leave the borders as they are and seek a formula of coexistence along the river. According to Mr Wade, Senegal must work for the restoration of peace with Mauritania because, the Senegalese opposition leader stressed, the two countries are bound by history, geography, and Islam. Nothing can separate them. The river should be a link and not a source of senselessness and confrontation, Mr Abdoulaye Wade added. [end recording]

Sudan

Kassiano on Cease-Fire Violations in Kurmuk

EA2810081789 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Member of RRC [Revolution Command Council] and the political supervisor of Equatoria Region, Brigadier PSC [Passed Staff College] Dominic Kassiano stated that the rebel movement is undergoing serious divisions due to ideological disputes and ethnicity. In a statement to AL-QUWAAT AL-MUSALLAHAH Arabic daily, Brigadier Kassiano said: These disputes prove the rebels' contradictions over their stand on the question of peace. He said big numbers of rebels have surrendered themselves to avoid the repercussions of interracial and tribal divisions which surface lately among the rebels.

Brig Kassiano said the rebels' stubbornness is built on the assumption that the people's armed forces is still as weak as it used to be during the defunct regime. He said: These assumptions encouraged the movement to launch continuous attempts of cease-fire violation and escalation of military operations in some parts of the southern region and the Kurmuk area. Brig Kassiano also said that fresh operations would disrupt peace efforts and cast doubt on the credibility of Garang's movement to achieve peace.

General Command Issues Statement

EA2810163889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Statement from the General Command of the People's Armed Forces of Sudan]

[Text] 1. We have been following the course of events in the southern Blue Nile area, specifically in the Kurmuk area, where the outlaws, using various means, strove to create a state of panic among the citizens and to kill innocent people without abiding by the cease-fire or respecting the simplest human principles of the citizens in this area.

2. The outlaws carried out numerous acts of aggression in the area which affected peaceful villages, where they killed, pillaged, and took innocent citizens prisoner. Their aggression extended to an attack on our garrisons and military convoys. They also planted a large quantity of mines to impede the movement of our forces.

3. Despite all that, our forces are still adhering to the cease-fire declared by the state, and they are administering their outposts normally. Nevertheless, the outlaws

tried to prevent the movement of our forces with the aim of inflicting the heaviest losses in their ranks and of preventing supplies from reaching our outer garrisons.

4. The area witnessed ferocious battles in the past few days, in which your forces in Kurmuk and other positions defied death. They inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors in terms of casualties and equipment. Our forces also sacrificed a number of martyrs.

5. The General Command wishes to assure you that your Armed Forces will not give up an inch of the soil of this homeland, and that they will fight the aggressors and shove their plot down their own throats. They will safeguard the unity of this soil and its territorial integrity and security against any sinful aggressor, and they will score victory after victory.

God is the greatest. Glory to Sudan. In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful: Victory cometh but from God. God is the most powerful and the wisest. God has spoken the truth. The General Command of the People's Armed Forces.

Government Withdraws After Attacks

AB2910154289 Paris AFP in French 1342 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (AFP)—Sudanese Government troops have withdrawn from the locality of Kurmuk (in southeastern Sudan) situated near to the border with Ethiopia. This was announced today by the Sudanese Army Command. The withdrawal of the Sudanese Army followed the intensive artillery bombardments by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) from Ethiopian territory, according to the same source.

The SPLA had said on Tuesday [24 October] that it had repulsed an offensive launched on 16 October by the government forces between Kurmuk and Damazin, near the Ethiopian border, adding that the Sudanese forces had been completely routed after 7 days of fighting. The head of the Sudanese junta, General 'Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, stated on Tuesday that fighting had taken place recently between government troops and SPLA in the Kurmuk area.

Army Announces Evacuation

AB2910162189 Paris AFP in French 1539 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (AFP)—The Sudanese Army Command today announced the withdrawal of its troops from the Kurmuk area in the southeastern part of the country, near the border with Ethiopia, following intensive artillery and rocket bombardment by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) from Ethiopian territory.

In a communique issued in Khartoum, the Army Command pointed out that the move was only a "tactical retreat" to "avoid the enemy's intensive bombardment and to regroup the troops in order to again take up evacuated positions." According to the communique, "several foreign military experts were leading the operations of the rebels," while "Ethiopian Government troops stationed in the region evacuated at the beginning of the bombardment, showing white flags to indicate that they were not involved in the offensive."

The communique described the rebel operations as "a plot against Sudan and its unity," and said this is likely to "compromise peace efforts" being made by the ruling junta in Sudan.

The Sudanese Army Command also stressed that the offensive launched by the rebels took place after the recent tour by SPLA leader Colonel Garang of several African countries. The Command said it regretted "what is going on in some neigboring countries, which is jeopardizing Sudan's security and stability," without giving further details.

The SPLA stated on Tuesday [24 October] that it had repelled a large-scale offensive launched on 16 October by the Sudanese Army between Kurmuk and Damazin, close to the Ethiopian border, adding that the government troops had been dispersed after 7 days of fighting.

For his part, General 'Umar al-Bashir, the leader of the junta, admitted that the fighting had taken place, but denied that government troops had initiated it. The announcement of the fall of Kurmuk by the Sudanese Army Command, observers noted, took place a few days after Gen al-Bashir stated that he would not rule out a military option to resolve the problems in the south.

Military Issues Communique

EA2910193789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Oct 89

[communique issued by General Command of the Armed Forces]

[Text] When Sudan is so painstakingly striving for peace, and is marching with stable and true steps toward realizing this dream, which has always been in the minds of all the citizens, and while the echo of the National Dialogue Conference's resolutions is reverberating in the skies of the capital, calling for peace and embodying the nation's wishes, its unity, and its keen desire for peace and tranquillity in the homeland's territories, suddenly our armed forces stationed southeast of the Blue Nile, and along common borders with Ethiopia, are being exposed to heavy bombardment by long-range artillery and missiles fired from launchers stationed inside Ethiopian territory.

The blows are being aimed at, and concentrated on Kurmuk, which is adjacent to the Ethiopian border. This has obliged our forces to stage a tactical withdrawal from the Kurmuk area, so that they will not be within range of heavy artillery and missile bombardment, and so that they can regroup and return to the positions they evacuated, after they have silenced the bombardment positions.

It has been noted with sorrow that the Ethiopian forces, which have been positioned on the borders between the two countries, and which were seen by the naked eye, withdrew a few days before the start of this last bombardment.

After seeing it start, they raised white flags as an indication that they were not participating in the attack.

Our forces also noticed that a number of foreign experts were involved in directing and commanding military operations. In reporting this news to the Sudanese people, the Armed Forces are proceeding from the revolutionary principles based on truth. Their intention is to make the situation clear to the public. They give an assurance that they will return to those places as soon as possible.

These events are evidence of a planned conspiracy against Sudan's territorial integrity and unity. They have also destroyed the serious attempts made by the Sudanese people to realize peace and solve the problems that threaten its territorial integrity and unity. The events in this area show that the conspirators plan to engage the armed forces in southern Blue Nile and South Kurdufan so that it becomes easier for them to pounce on peaceful areas of the south. Sudan observes with great sorrow events in some neighboring countries which threaten its security and stability.

The renegade John Garang's political and propaganda moves in the east and central states confirm the reality of what we have said.

We sincerely hope that everyone comes to his senses and becomes aware that conspiracy is a double-edged weapon, and that peace and harmony is in the interest of all countries in the region. If they opt for peace, you opt for it, too and depend on Allah, as he is the all-hearing and the most omniscient [a verse from the Koran].

God, the great, has spoken the truth. That ends the communique of the General Comand of the People's Armed Forces.

Central Region Declares Mobilization

EA3010085889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Oct 89

[From the review of AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH]

[Text] The government of the Central Region declared general mobilization yesterday. A high committee has been formed for donations to support military operations under the chairmanship of the governor.

RSA's Tutu Urges Government, Garang Meeting

EA2610121489 Khartoum SUNA in French 1555 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—Bishop Desmond Tutu, head of the [words indistinct] proposed the holding of a meeting between the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in Cairo under the auspices of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, also acting chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

Bishop Tutu, who was received this afternoon by Lieutenant Colonel al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Council, also paid tribute to the role played by the Sudan for the support of liberation movements in South Africa, and was happy about the efforts made by the Sudanese Government towards the restoration of peace.

In this respect the bishop indicated that Brigadier Salih had confirmed to him that the Sudanese Government was ready to hold a meeting with Garang's movement anywhere, any time, and without any preconditions.

It is worth noting that Bishop Tutu arrived in Khartoum this morning in line with an African tour that will afterwards take him to Ethiopia.

Meets Command Council Members

EA2710092289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] This morning Rev Desmond Tutu had a meeting at the People's Hall Omdurman, with Staff Brigadier Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and chairman of the Political Committee; Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the NSRCC and chairman of the steering committee of the national dialogue conference; and Colonel Dominic Kassiano and Colonel Martin Malwal, two members of the NSRCC. After the meeting, Staff Brig 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the NSRCC and chairman of the Political Committee, made the following statement to our reporter:

[Begin 'Uthman recording] In the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate. Today I met Father Desmond Tutu, the African militant, and explained to him the real situation in Sudan. I also spoke about the southern problem, its causes and dimensions. The talks also centered on the national dialogue conference and its recommendations, which will be submitted to a joint session of the NSRCC and the Council of Ministers.

Father Tutu showed understanding of the nature of the conflict in the south. He was aware that it was not a war between northerners and southerners, as is alleged, or between Muslims and Christians or Arabs and Blacks, and that there is nothing between the southern and northern people except brotherhood and harmony. Proof of this is what Father Tutu saw when he visited the camps around the capital for migrants, namely the southern brothers who have fled from rebels who kill them and loot their property and cattle. These people have come to take refuge among their northern brothers. Father Tutu realized all that. Thank you. [end recording]

Proposes Cairo Peace Meeting

EA2710173689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The Reverend Desmond Tutu, chairman of the All-African Conference of Churches, gave a news conference at the Grand Hotel in Khartoum at 1900 today.

He said that during his meeting with the deputy chairman and members of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], he had stressed his readiness to promote Sudanese peace efforts. He had also proposed holding a meeting between the government of the revolution and Garang's movement in Cairo under the auspices of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the latter's capacity as OAU chairman... [break in reception] The members of the NSRCC had expressed their readiness to meet the movement anytime, anywhere. The Reverend Tutu also stressed the need to establish a climate conducive to continuing the dialogue.

On the role he could perform in the peace process, his excellency expressed readiness to postpone all his engagements in South Africa and abroad so as to make himself available to render all possible assistance in support of the serious attempts being made to achieve peace. He said it was up to Sudan to approve or reject his offer in this respect.

The Reverend Tutu stressed his support for the government of the revolution's peace efforts. He said the cease-fire and general amnesty represented steps deserving of encouragement and attention. He expressed readiness to mediate between the government of the revolution and the movement. He said that during his visit to Ethiopia, he would meet the movement's leaders, expresssing the hope that on their part they would agree.

Replying to a question on the British prime minister's rejection of economic sanctions against the racist government of Pretoria, the Reverend Tutu said her attitude was scandalous by all standards, despite her allegations that she opposed racial discrimination. He confirmed that De Klerk's government was expected to be the last white government in South Africa and said South Africa would be free.

His excellency said the tour of the All-African Conference of Churches' delegation aimed at bolstering the relations of the members of the conference. He stressed the conference's concern for human rights issues, regional conflicts in the continent and the problem of refugees, pointing out that about half of the world's refugees were in Africa. The conference was also concerned for the liberation struggles in southern Africa.

Al-Basir Returns From 3-Day Visit to Iraq

EA2610220389 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Summary] Khartoum, Oct 26 (SUNA)—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir returned from Iraq today. In a statement on arrival he said he met a number of Arab leaders, including Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, during his 3-day visit.

Consultation With IMF Said To Continue

EA2610224289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Oct (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government and the IMF have agreed to continue consultations between them to reach a formula for solving Sudan's economic crisis. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, in a press statement issued here today, said it had reviewed with the IMF officials the steps taken by the Revolutionary Command Council to the economic problems in the country. Sudan has confirmed the necessity of continuing talks and consultation with the IMF, the statement said.

The talks between Sudan and the IMF had started here current 10 October and wound up sessions today.

Government, IMF Agree on Talks

EA2710191689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The government and the IMF have agreed to continue bilateral consultations with the aim of agreeing on a formula with which to deal with the country's economic problems. The two sides also agreed to identify the causes of the internal and external deficiencies affecting the Sudanese economy. Views and proposals were exchanged on the policies best able to lead to the elimination of these deficiencies and the restoration of the economic equilibrium as a basis for resuming development.

A press statement issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning at the end of the negotiations explained that the negotiations took place in a friendly atmosphere and that the Sudanese side had explained the steps taken by the government since the beginning of July 1989 to reform the course of the economy and the policies to be implemented in the short and medium terms. It presented specific proposals in this respect. The statement added that Sudan had expressed the desire to deal with the question of its arrears by striving to resume payment of part of its arrears as soon as possible.

Radio Commentary Urges Al-Bashir Removal

EA2710114889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] 'Umar al-Bashir admits that he took over power to stop implementation of the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party]-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] November peace agreement. This admission was in response to a question by a journalist in 'Umar al-Bashir's peace press conference in Khartoum 2 days ago, on 24 October 1989. 'Umar al-Bashir was asked to respond to accusations levelled against him that he made his coup d'etat on 30 June to prevent the peace talks that were scheduled for 4 July and the national constitutional conference that was scheduled for 18 September.

The Sudanese people and the whole world heard 'Umar al-Bashir's response to this question. 'Umar al-Bashir said that the meeting of 4 July was not peace but, according to him, the SPLA was going to dictate four points. Is anybody now in any doubt as to why 'Umar al-Bashir took over on 30 June? From his own mouth he took over on 30 June to prevent the 4 July meeting between the SPLA and the Dr Sid Ahmad's ministerial peace committee. This is concrete evidence that 'Umar al-Bashir is National Islamic Front [NIF] and a warmonger. He is completely unfitted to bring peace since, by his own admission, he took over to prevent a peace meeting—which means war.

It is to be recalled that the NIF demonstrated against Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani when the DUP leader returned from Addis Ababa after signing the peace agreement with the SPLA. It is also to be recalled that before Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani left for Addis Ababa to sign peace, the NIF attacked his house with automatic rifles, trying to kill him. Fortunately, Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani was not at home. He had gone to a funeral and thereby avoided his own funeral. On 30 June, the NIF continued their antipeace program through 'Umar al-Bashir, by taking over state power.

The movement wishes to alert the Sudanese Army that war continues because of 'Umar al-Bashir. They, soldiers of the Sudanese Army, will continue to suffer and die because of 'Umar al-Bashir. The movement wishes to alert the Sudanese people that the economy and living conditions will continue to deteriorate because of the condition of the war and this is because of 'Umar al-Bashir.

What must be done is clear. In order to bring peace, the Sudanese people must drive 'Umar out of power along with his scum in the so-called NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council]. There is no salvation in 'Umar al-Bashir. What has come with him is destruction of the Sudan, not salvation.

SPLA Warns Against Advance on Surkum

EA2910175689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] High Command today issues two strong warnings.

Warning number one: The SPLA chief of staff [COS], Commander William Nyuan Bany, who is also the commander of the New Funj forces in Blue Nile, today issued a strong warning to the force of Colonel Muhammad Ali al-Haji not to attempt to advance to Surkum. The SPLA COS said such an attempt would definitely lead to total destruction of Col Muhammad's force to an extent even worse than suffered by Lieutenant Colonel Sayyid Jamal al-Din.

Cdr William Nyuan Bany said SPLA sources in Damazin have reported details of Col Muhammad Ali al-Haji's forces, including the number and types of combat vehicles and artillery pieces. These weapons will not help.

As a colleague and a patriot, Cdr Nyuan Bany strongly warns and advises Col Muhammad Ali al-Haji not to commit innocent soldiers to sure and unnecessary death. Why should these soldiers die for Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir, who aborted peace on June 30th, and who will soon be driven out by the wrath of the Sudanese people? Cdr William Nyuan Bany also appealed to the men, NCO's and officers of Col Muhammad Ali al-Haji's force to refuse the illegal order if they are forced to advance. We congratulate you for returning back to Dondoro when you met the remnants of Lt-Col Sayyid Jamal al-Din's force.

In a related development, reliable SPLA sources in Damazin have sent to SPLA high command the full details of the battle of Surkum.

The so-called Aman al-Kurmuk force was 347 men, NCO's, and officers. Of these, 226, or 65 percent, were killed with their bodies left on the battlefield. Another 84, or 24 percent, are unaccounted for, or some deserted to SPLA forces. Others were captured in the Funj villages.

The remaining 35, or 11 percent, reached Dondoro, including the commander, Lt-Col Sayyid Jamal al-Din. [figures as heard]

From these true casualty figures coming from Damazin itself, it is obvious that the battle of Surkum was a major defeat and disaster for 'Umar al-Bashir's junta. For what reason did these innocent 226 soldiers die?

SPLA warning number two: The official spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] today warned that 'Umar al-Bashir is poised to launch an attack on SPLA positions in a desperate bid to try to recapture SPLA-held towns.

Dissatisfied members of 'Umar al-Bashir's so-called National Salvation Command Council have sent an urgent message to the SPLA commander in chief, saying that the National Salvation Command Council has met and decided to launch an offensive against the SPLA.

The message outlined the reasons it reveals the SPLA garrisons to be attacked, the size of the attacking force, including their armaments, commanders, direction of attack, and the full plan.

The spokesman said: The SPLA is fully prepared to repulse and destroy such an attempt. The spokesman said 'Umar al-Bashir has made his decision on wishful thinking, and this can only tend to unnecessary death of innocent soldiers. The spokesman instead advised the junta to contact the SPLA for dialogue—to discuss the movement's peace program that was presented to them on August 19th and 20th this year, and to abandon the path of war. [passage omitted]

The so-called National Dialogue Conference recently concluded in Khartoum is at best simply a publicity stunt, and at worst, a crude political exercise that must be abandoned by the junta.

The spokesman concluded the warning by appealing to patriotic officers, NCO's and men to refuse 'Umar al-Bashir's unnecessary war, and instead talk with the movement.

Disbanded Parties Engaged in Covert Activities

EA2710113389 Khartoum SUNA in English 1627 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 October (SUNA)—Command Council member, Colonel Faysal Madani, has denied any foreign pressure with regard to peace realization and the future form of government in the Sudan.

In statements to the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI today, Col Faysal said the government was acting (with a free Sudanese will) for the rearrangement of its internal home.

Col Madani said the Revolutionary Command Council was fully convinced on the validity of the recommendations and results of the national conference on peace issues which ended session on 20th October. The recommendations, which deal with the form of government in the future, the share of national wealth and development, have been submitted to Command Council chairman, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, on 21st (?October).

Col Madani told the paper today that some disbanded political parties have been engaged in activities—which have not yet taken an overt form—aiming to obstruct the revolution's process. He warned, however, that any anti-revolution activity by the dissolved party will be considered a treason and will, therefore, promptly dealt with. [sentence as received] He said the tribal conflicts in southern Kurdufan region west Sudan might be used by disbanded partisan elements as a means for activating anti-government plans. He said the revolution was observing every and each move aiming to disunite the national ranks.

Kuwait

Talks Held With Bulgarian, Turkish Officials

Foreign Minister Opens Meetings

LD3010100689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0823 GMT 30 Oct 89

[By Saleh Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 30 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Monday opened meetings grouping the Turkish and Bulgarian chief diplomats in a bid to patch up differences over the problem of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

Shaykh Sabah, addressing the meeting in the presence of Bulgarian deputy premier, Foreign Minister Georgi Yudanov and Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, expressed Kuwait's constant preparedness to exert faithful efforts to ensure utmost success for the meeting.

Welcoming the guests in Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah said that their presence here reflected their keenness to seriously and wisely handle the issue of the Muslim minority of Turkish origin in Bulgaria.

He said that the problem, "with all its humanitarian dimensions, urgently calls on us to provide necessary efforts to contain its negative impact and repercussions on the two friendly countries' bilateral relations."

He pointed out that the meeting gains added importance because it followed positive responses of Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov and Turkish head of state Kenan Evren to the initiative of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in his capacity as chairman of the fifth session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

It further affirmed the two countries' serious and real determination in a spirit of joint responsibility to evade escalating tension in their relations.

Shaykh Sabah pointed to the distinctive relationship binding the amir with both the Bulgarian and Turkish presidents which had greatly contributed in facilitating holding that meeting at that senior level.

"Your meeting here is a realistic and practical interpretation of your governments' faithful intentions to tackle this problem in all positiveness and justice," the Kuwaiti chief diplomat stressed.

He expressed confidence in both countries' constructive efforts and fruitful cooperation that would materialize in a formula taking into consideration the issue's humanitarian feelings and dimensions.

The meeting was also attended by OIC Secretary General Hamed al-Ghabid.

Shaykh Sabah then called for an in-camera meeting at which only Turkish and Bulgarian senior officals were present.

Shaykh Sabah later expressed hope that the meeting between Bulgarian and Turkish delegations here would be the bridge that the two countries cross over to find a solution for the problem of Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

Speaking to reporters after delivering a statement at the opening of the meeting, Shaykh Sabah said "A problem of this sort is not likely to be solved in one day but I hope this meeting here would be the bridge for ending the conflict."

Kuwait is mediating between Bulgaria and Turkey to find a solution for the controversial issue of Bulgarian Muslims of Turkish origin who complain that the Bulgarians are forcing them to change their cultural identity.

Asked whether the Bulgarian-Turkish meeting would be followed by a summit between the presidents of Turkey and Bulgaria, Shaykh Sabah said this matter would be determined in light of the results of the talks here.

For his part, Dr. al-Ghabid said that the meeting coronates [as received] efforts of H.H. the amir in this issue.

He told KUNA that the amir had exerted great efforts lately that led to holding the meeting in Kuwait and expressed optimism and hope that both sides would indulge in "fruitful negotiations."

Al-Ghabid declared that a problem of this dimension cannot be solved in one meeting but noted that direct contact between the two parties is a positive sign in itself.

Hoping that the meeting would yield positive results, he said that the OIC left it for the two countries at this stage to determine for themselves agenda of their talks.

Amir Receives Guests

LD3010132489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1055 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 30 (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmed al-Sabah Monday received Bulgarian Deputy Premier Georgi Yudanov and Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz on the occasion of their visit to the country. The officials visit to Kuwait comes in response to an invitation extended by his highness to discuss the situation of the Turkish Moslem minority in Bulgaria.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jabir, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference Hamed al-Ghabid, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and ambassadors of Bulgaria and Turkey to Kuwait. The meeting was also attended by Kuwaiti ambassadors to Turkey and Bulgaria.

PDRY

Foreign Ministry Statement on Lebanon Conference

EA2810080389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has issued a statement to ANA on the agreement reached at the meeting of Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if. It says:

The outcome of the meetings of Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this month has confirmed the high hopes we had for this sublime framework of Lebanese legitimacy and its ability to resolve the causes of dispute and bring Lebanese and Arab patriotic national aspirations to realization by ending one of our perennial Arab tragedies.

We, in realization of the reality of our fraternal links with Lebanon and of our appreciation and love for Lebanon and its brotherly people, have followed these meetings with high hopes and goodwill. We had heartily hoped that the outcome of the meetings would serve to strengthen stability, halt the in-fighting and lay down appropriate bases for a comprehensive solution of the Lebanese crisis by peaceful means through fraternal dialogue. Indeed, our hopes have been justified, for the agreement reached at the al-Ta'if conference is, in our view, germane to the required solution at both the level of the proposed constitutional reforms and at that of safeguarding Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and its independence.

We accordingly highly rate all the efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee, the Lebanese parliamentarians and all Lebanese, Arab, and international parties participating in the process of reaching this agreement. We stress that Democratic Yemen had been and remains concerned for Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty, security, and stability and its return to its former status as the pulpit of civilization, culture, and construction.

Al-'Attas Chairs People's Council Meeting

EA2710110089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council [SPC] has held its 36th session under the chairmanship of Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the SPC Presidium.

To start with, the Presidium heard the report of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, on his and his delegation's visit to the sisterly state of Kuwait and the results of his talks with brother Kuwaiti officials, which reflected the concern of the two countries for developing relations in the interests of the two brotherly peoples and their joint Arab issues. The Presidium commended the results of the fruitful visit, highly rating the level and need to strengthen Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations. It praised Kuwait's brotherly assistance to our country in numerous vital fields. The Presidium also examined an evaluatory report on the implementation of the 1988 plan of the third 5-year plan for economic and social development submitted by the government. The report analyses economic, developments and the level of implementation of the production plan: the financing plan in its two parts—the unified general budget and the balance of payments; the foreign trade plan; the investment plan and the employment and wages plan. The report also evaluated the level of implementation of the production and sectoral investment plans in accordance with the [word indistinct] of economic activities and detailed statements on the level of implementation of investment plan in every sector and project.

The Presidium praised the Central Statistics Bureau for thoroughly and comprehensively preparing the evaluatory report on the plan, as well as the efforts of the Ministry of Planning and its cadres.

The Presidium also discussed the draft investment bill providing for investments in industry, oil, minerals, agriculture, fisheries, housing, transport, communications, tourism, and other fields. The Presidium reviewed the advantages and privileges provided for in the bill additional to those provided for in the existing law in the light of the trends of the comprehensive political and economic reform. The Presidium vigorously debated the bill by virtue of its importance to encouraging investment in our country. The Presidium praised the government's great efforts in drafting the bill, which, once it is approved by the SPC, will constitute an important step towards providing investors with guarantees and great facilities. The Presidium also studied a report on the participation of SPC delegations in the respective conferences of the Arab Parliamentary Union and the IPU.

The Presidium approved the holding of the 10th session of the SPC on 6 November. The Presidium will continue its session next Saturday [28 October] evening.

Party Official Receives Mozambican Team

EA2510123089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Muhammad Sa'id Abdullah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, met a Mozambican party delegation, led by (Carlos Macario), member of the Central Committee of the Mozambican Liberation Front [FRELIMO] party, in his office yesterday. Relations between the two countries and parties were discussed during the meeting. Agreement was also reached on signing a party protocol for the years 1990-1991.

Comrade (Macario) pointed out that his country was living through difficult conditions, and that the regime in South Africa was carrying out continuous acts of aggression aimed at keeping the neighboring states under its political and economic control. He confirmed his country's desire to develop and strengthen the relations with Democratic Yemen in various fields, and coordinate joint stands toward international issues.

USSR Friendship Meeting in Al-Mukalla

EA2710093289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] A meeting was held yesterday evening [24 Oct] in Al-Mukalla Cinema on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union, in the presence of Brothers (Muhammad Fari Musaqi), second secretary of the party's organization in Hadramawt Governorate; (Umar Salih al-Khalaqi), secretary of the Ideological Department of the Secretariat of the committee of the party's organization in the governorate; a number of other officials in the governor's office; the Soviet consulate in Al-Mukalla; a large group of citizens and Soviet experts working in the governor's office; and a number of members of the Yemeni-Soviet friendship Society.

At the meeting, brother (Musaqi) made a speech in which he explained the historic, political, and economic importance of the treaty, which opened up broad prospects for relations between the Yemeni and Soviet peoples. He appreciated the assistance being offered by the friendly Soviet Union to our country, praising the great efforts being exerted by the Soviet experts working in various branches of the national economy. At the end of his speech, he expressed the wish for the further growth and development of Yemeni-Soviet relations.

A speech was also made on behalf of the Soviet consulate in Al-Mukalla. It reviewed the most important projects to which the Soviet experts had contributed.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Discusses Kuwait Ties, U.S. Visit

LD3010113289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0842 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 30 (KUNA)—Saudi Monarch King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-Aziz affirmed the strong relations binding Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and added that the Gulf states enjoy "unequivalent" social relations.

Interviewed by chief editor of daily AL-SIYASAH, published here today, King Fahd opined that the interrelations and links between the Gulf states "are natural and not a result of cooked-up agreements." He added in his interview, which is also published by Al-SIYASAH English-language twin paper ARAB TIMES, that "the relations between the people of the region have preceded the agreements and these agreements were designed only to regulate certain issues." He cited the relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as an example, adding that Saudi Arabia will not forget late Amir of Kuwait Mubarak al-Sabah when Imam 'Abd al-Rahman al-Faisal went to him for refuge after he did not find any place.

Commenting on the execution of those convicted of undertaking sabotage activities in holy Mecca, the Saudi monarch assured that all the Shari'a (Islamic) judiciary system in Saudi Arabia is totally independent and the executive authority have no influence on its judgements.

He went on saying that this judiciary has its rulings emanating from Islam and the teachings of Allah. He reaffirmed that "Saudi- Kuwaiti relations cannot be affected by the storms of those who think that blowing up issues affect the strong and historical relations between Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia." He stressed that "Between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, there are open borders of passions and affections."

Asked to comment on the Gulf cooperation Council [GCC], King Fahd said that the GCC, which has become a model for other groups, is a very important historical fact, paying tribute to H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmed al-Sabah for his initiative in establishing it. He noted that "that idea was reflected the wisdom and true thinking of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmed. He is a true leader indeed." The Saudi monarch explained that the GCC, grouping Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, has overcome many delicate issues that needed flexibility.

He went on that there were some external forces wishing to see the GCC unsuccessful, noting that "their ploys were quite ingenious, but we successfully overcame them and speeded up the dynamism of the Gulf cooperation." He added that "when the Gulf war intensified, our people felt that the GCC was for them and for defending their countries' independence and stability."

King Fahd said that "the opportunity of cooperation between GCC states are not limited, particularly when they enjoy huge resources." The Saudi leader said the forthcoming GCC summit in Muscat is indeed special as it is being held at a time when the efforts of interlinking the interest of the people in the area are receiving the whole hearted support of all leaders in the region.

Asked to clarify the postponement of his visit to the United States, King Fahd said that it was postponed due to the Lebanese issue which had turned from an Arab and Mideast issue into a world issue. On the financial situation in Saudi Arabia, King Fahd said, that the Saudi Government has not sought any loans from any country and has made maximum use of the local monetary liquidity in safe investments. He said that the value of Saudi industrial exports is in excess of 10 billion Saudi riyals, adding that the period of economic recession due to the fall of oil prices and underproduction have passed. The economy is now looking up as political tensions in the region have diminished.

King Sends Message to Algeria's Bendjedid

LD2810214189 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, sent a message to his brother, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. APS said the message was conveyed by His Excellency, Mr ('Ali ibn-Musallam), adviser at the royal court, when he was recieved by President Bendjedid in Algiers this evening.

The message covered an exchange of viewpoints concerning the latest developments following the Lebanese parliamentarians agreement in al-Ta'if on the Lebanese national concord document in its final form, as well as Arab Higher Tripartite Committee's plan for future moves toward ending the Lebanese crisis according to the Casablanca summit resolutions.

The meeting was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali.

Report on Foreign Minister's Damascus Talks Denied

LD2710204689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1801 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] A responsible source denied a report carried by the UAE-based AL-ITTIHAD and published today, Friday 27 October 1989, to the effect that the talks of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, last week in Damascus with Syrian officials dealt with the names of candidates to the post of president of Lebanon.

The source told SPA that what the paper said was absolutely groundless.

Defense Minister Receives Sudanese Official

LD3010155689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1428 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 30 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general, received at his office in Jeddah this afternoon brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution COmmand Council for National Salvation, who handed him a letter to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, from his brother General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation. [passage omitted]

Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Jeddah this morning. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN2710195489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received an oral message from Libyan President Colonel Mu'mmar al-Qadhdhafi. The message deals with relations between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan received the message when he received today the Libyan president's envoy, 'Abd-al-Qadir Ghuqah, who is visiting the UAE.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Concludes Egypt Visit, Returns Home

JN2910064889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Excerpt] With God's care, brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and an accompanying delegation, returned home at 1530, concluding a 3-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. During the visit, brother leaders Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Muhammad Husni Mubarak held talks that dealt with brotherly and cooperative bilateral relations and means of promoting them. They also exchanged views on a number of issues and current developments in the Arab arena, particularly the Palestine question. [passage omitted]

UN Message Protests 'Repeated' Iranian Attacks

JN2810130389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] United Nations, 28 Oct (INA)—Iraq has called on the United Nations to take the necessary steps to warn Iran against its repeated attacks, and has warned the Iranian regime that it will bear full responsibility for any consequences.

In a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq said that two Iranian gunboats attacked the Iraqi tug "al-Intisar," which is owned by the Iraqi General Ports Authority, 1 mile to the east of al-Bakr Port at 1040 on 25 October.

The message adds that three armed Iranian soldiers boarded the tug in an attempt to apprehend one of its crewmen.

The message says that at 1105 on the same day, the armed soldiers opened fire on one of the crewmen, wounding him seriously. He was martyred less than 1 hour later, and the tug sustained material damage.

The message indicates that an Iranian gunboat opened fire on the same tug at 1315 when it was near Platform 2.

Iraq affirmed that the Iranian regime must not imagine that such dangerous practices will go unanswered if they continue.

An INA correspondent in New York said that the message was delivered by the Iraqi permanent UN representative to Javier Perez de Cuellar. The message indicates that Iraq informed the UN secretary general that Iran carried out a similar aggression on 18 September 1989. That constituted a serious violation of the cease-fire, and indicates the insincerity of the Iranian regime's intentions toward the establishment of peace with Iraq.

Iraq asked the UN secretary general to distribute the message as a UN Security Council official document.

The INA correspondent in New York has learned that the group of UN military observers has informed the UN secretary general of the incident.

Saddam Receives PDRY Official, Message

JN2910065689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received this evening Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the higher committee for popular control in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. During the meeting, Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id conveyed a written message to the president leader from his brother PDRY President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas containing congratulations from the PDRY Government and people on completing the reconstruction of the city of al-Faw, the gate of the great victory.

The message also expresses the fraternal country's pride in the quick and effective reconstruction of the cities which were harmed during the war. It adds that this indicates the high capabilities of the Iraqi people and stresses their determination to bring about and preserve peace in order to achieve development and progress. During the meeting, they discussed the brotherly relations between the two countries and ways to promote them in various areas. The meeting was attended by the PDRY ambassador to Baghdad.

Ramadan Meets CPSU Central Committee Member

JN2810164889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1516 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Zoya Pukhova, CPSU Central Committee member, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and chairman of the Committee of Soviet Women, and her delegation. [passage omitted]

Syrians Reportedly Arrest PLO Loyalists

JN2810201489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI published in Beirut today says that Syrian intelligence agents stormed the Burj al-Barajinah camp near Beirut last week and arrested a group of Palestinians. The arrests came on charges of loyalty to the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. It adds that the Palestinians were transported to the Syrian intelligence center in West Beirut and then to al-Biqa', where the headquarters of Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, is located.

Iran, Syria Said Setting Up 'Terrorist Center'

JN2710124889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH today warned against a terrorist act by the Syrian and Iranian regime against all Arab and Islamic parties that condemned the acts of sabotage during the last pilgrimage season.

In an article, AL-THAWRAH says today it has information that confirms that the Damascus rulers are collaborating with the Iranian regime to set up a terrorist center in Damascus under an Islamic cover to carry out acts against those who condemned the Iranian regime and its agents and supported the measures taken by Saudi Arabia against the anti-Arab saboteurs.

The paper asserts that the Iranian regime employs Syria's rulers as obedient tools to execute its threats and aggressive plots against the Arab nation in general, and the Arabian Gulf region in particular.

Arab Front To Be Formed To Support Intifadah

JN2710213389 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] It was announced in Baghdad today that Arab parties have agreed to form a popular Arab front to support the valiant Palestinian intifadah in response to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's initiative and its call for a search of the best formulas to support the valiant Palestinian intifadah.

In a statement issued today, the Arab parties stressed the need to bolster their support for the glorious revolution of stones and to ensure for it all the required steadfastness and continuity to confront the brutal Zionist repression and its hideous crimes against the Palestinian Arab people. The following is the text of the statement:

Amid great delight over the reconstruction of al-Faw, the city of sacrifice, the gateway to great victory, and the symbol of pan-Arab liberation and steadfastness, the fraternal Arab parties participating in the celebrations of the Iraq of peace, goodness, and civilization, have met on this happy occasion in response to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's initiative and its call for a search of the best means to support the valiant Palestinian intifadah. The Arab parties agree to bolster their support for the glorious revolution of stone and to ensure for it all the required steadfastness and continuity to confront the brutal Zionist repression and its hideous crimes against the Palestinian Arab people. This is based on their historic pan-Arab responsibilities and out of their belief in the unity of the Arab struggle against Zionism and its allies.

The Arab parties believe in the need to mobilize the Arab masses throughout the greater Arab homeland. They also believe in devoting their militant activities to the victory of the great intifadah, which has taken a qualitative step forward in the course of the Arab and Palestinian struggle, gained growing international support, exposed the nature of Zionism as an expansionist, fascist movement, and isolated the usurping hostile entity.

The fraternal parties welcome the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's idea of forming a popular Arab front to support the valiant Palestinian intifadah. They welcome the idea of mobilizing the resources of the Arab nation in all its countries and coming up with the best formulas of cooperation and coordination among the national committees. These committees, whose formation or reinforcement the fraternal parties are calling for in every Arab capital to guarantee the mobilization of the masses, must launch their initiatives, diversify their activities, extend all forms of material, political, and media support for the intifadah, and work to expand the circle of friends and supporters of the Palestine question in the international arena.

It has been decided to entrust the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PLO with the task of contacting all the Arab political parties and forces. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PLO also will inform the Arab parties and forces of this preliminary step and prepare for an expanded meeting in Baghdad to be attended by all parties that wish to participate in the popular Arab front in support of the valiant Palestinian intifadah. This meeting will be called before the 3d anniversary of the valiant intifadah on 9 December 1989. During the meeting, the front's structure and procedures will be discussed. Those attending the meeting also will be asked to approve a plan of action on the Arab and international levels in such a way as to achieve the noble objective aspired to by the vanguards of Arabism through the formation of this front.

The fraternal parties meeting in Baghdad seize this opportunity to express their high appreciation for the steadfastness and courage of Palestinian Arabs in their splendid confrontation of the Zionist repression with strong belief and costly sacrifice. The parties also hail the righteous martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the sake of the Palestinian soil. The parties are confident that victory will favor Palestine and Arabism against the hostile imperialist-Zionist alliance.

The statement was signed by representatives of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the PLO, the Moroccan Union Party [Hizb al-Ittihad al-Maghribi], the Moroccan National Union of Popular Forces, the Moroccan Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Moroccan Socialist National Party [al-Hizb al-Watani al-Ishtiraki al-Maghribi], the Moroccan Liberals National Rally Party [Hizb al-Tajammu' al-Watani Lilahrar al-Maghribi], the Moroccan Social Center Party, the Moroccan Independence Party, the Moroccan Organization for Democratic Action, the Moroccan Labor Union Party, the Egyptian al-Ummah Party, the Egyptian National [Progressive Unionist] Grouping Party, the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, the Egyptian National Democratic Party, the Egyptian Wafd Party, the Mauritanian Mass Educating Structures Party [Hizb Hayakil Tahdhib al-Jamahir al-Muritani], the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, and the Tunisian Destourian Democratic Rally Party.

Shamir on NBC Report, U.S. Trip, Peace Process

TA2710182389 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Eli Nisan; date and place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Do you believe the U.S. reports on military cooperation between Israel and South Africa are liable to harm relations between Israel and the United States?

[Shamir] I think they will not harm our relations, although the intention of those who published and disseminated these false reports may have been to do so.

[Nisan] Sir, do you know any reason for the timing of the reports? Could it be related to your trip, or to the fact that Israel has rejected the initiative....

[Shamir, interrupting] I think this thing has been cooking for a long time. It was certainly not the result of a 2-day-old decision. Someone must have planned and thought it out. Nor is this the first time similar reports have been published. I do not believe they are connected to my trip.

[Nisan] Do you think reports like this one are liable to damage the prospects for your upcoming visit to the United States, the date for which has not yet been set?

[Shamir] I do not think so. I do not believe it can harm the visit, although the intention may have been to do just that: to harm the very relations between Israel and the United States, without any connection to my visit.

[Nisan; a brochure in Arabic is shown on the screen, accompanied by the announcer's voice speaking in Arabic] Secretary of State Baker has announced that he is standing fast by his five-point plan. In your opinion, can the stands of Israel and the United States be bridged prior to your upcoming visit there?

[Shamir] We are trying to reach some kind of agreement. As I said before, all we are discussing here is an Israeli-Arab encounter, with a pledge that such an encounter would not compromise the goals of the peace initiative as presented in that brochure. This is all we are talking about. I assume we will be able to reach some agreement.

[Nisan] Do you believe such an agreement can be attained before your U.S. visit?

[Shamir] I do not know when; I hope we will reach it.

[Nisan] Mr Shamir, this week President Mitterrand spoke of the developments in our region, calling for more European involvement. Can the active involvement of European countries harm the process?

[Shamir] As things stand today, and judging by the positions taken by the European Community, I believe more vigorous and intensive involvement on the part of Europe can only interfere with the peace trends as well as with the peace initiatives. If Europe changes its stands and seeks out ways to strengthen the more moderate elements, those who are genuinely interested in peace, then such involvement can be beneficial. As things are today, it can only do harm.

No Fixed Date for Shamir's White House Talks

TA2710192589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Report by Yoram Ronen]

[Excerpts] The recurrent leaks from Washington, which say that President Bush will not meet with the prime minister unless the latter adopts Baker's plan, are naturally worrying Jerusalem policymakers. With 2 and ½ weeks before the prime minister's departure, they find the fact that no final date has been set for the White House meeting as unpleasant, very unconventional, and almost unprecedented.

It seems, however, that the Bush-Shamir meeting will eventually take place. Until then, though, the White House will continue exerting pressures and changing the dates suggested by the Prime Minister's Bureau. [passage omitted]

This is the situation at the moment: Arens is waiting for Baker's reply to his message proposing amendments to the five points—amendments designed to guarantee that the PLO will not be represented in the Palestinian delegation—and that the discussions in Cairo will concentrate only on elections in the territories. U.S. sources said tonight that Baker's reply will not be acceptable to the Likud ministers in that it will not grant us a veto over the composition of the Palestinian delegation to Cairo. According to these sources, Baker will note that the Jerusalem-Washington exchange of messages has reached its culmination in the sense of take it or leave it [last five words in English]: either accept Baker's plan or reject it outright.

The prime minister had promised to raise the Baker plan for discussion in the Inner Cabinet. The Alignment ministers are taking aggressive action to get the plan endorsed before Yitzhaq Shamir's departure for Washington. It is presumed that the prime minister will be unable to travel to the United States with an Inner Cabinet resolution, backed by Alignment ministers votes, that rejects the Baker plan. He will be able to bring the plan for a discussion in the Inner Cabinet before his departure for Washington, but the voting will have to take place only after his return at the end of November.

Shamir May Cancel U.S. Trip if No Meeting Set

TA3010072689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir may cancel his U.S. visit if by 1 November the White House is still procrastinating and withholding its response to the Prime Minister's Office's request for a date for a meeting between the two men in mid-November.

A senior Likud source associated with the prime minister disclosed that, if 2 weeks prior to the visit there is still no date for a meeting with Bush, Shamir will ask the organizers of the annual convention of the Jewish federations to forgo his participation in the meeting in Cincinnati on 16 November. He will thus spare himself the embarrassment of a U.S. President's refusal to receive a visiting Israeli prime minister.

Yesterday Shamir expressed the hope that the differences with the United States will be resolved and that his upcoming visit to Washington will help eliminate them.

Yosi Ahime'ir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Bureau, said yesterday that he knows nothing about the possibility of Shamir calling off his tour.

U.S. Relationship 'Close' Despite 'Differences'

TA3010054089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel's relationship with the United States remains good and close and that he hopes to overcome current difficulties during his forthcoming visit to the United States. Shamir was speaking last night to members of the American Joint Distribution Committee, here to celebrate their organization's 75th birthday.

[Begin Shamir recording] We have a long experience of some difference of views with the United States in our history of our relations with the United States. Of course, this relationship is brilliant, is very good, and is very close, and differences of views exist in spite of the very good relations we have; or I can say vice versa: The relations are good in spite of the difference of views that we have from time to time, and it's very normal that people in a family will have some difference of views, and in each alliance there are some differences of views from time to time. And, well, we hope we will overcome this difference, and I hope that my visit will help in this direction. [end recording]

'No Chance' of Bridging U.S.-Likud Gap Seen

TA2910084189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Oct 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Wolf Blitzer, Dan Petreanu, and David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Well-informed U.S. diplomatic sources yesterday expressed doubt that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would go as far as Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has requested in modifying his five-point framework proposal to grant Israel a veto over PLO participation and the proposed agenda for any dialogue with Palestinians.

Baker yesterday was again described as prepared to make only modest "cosmetic" changes in his proposal. [passage omitted]

In a letter early last week, Arens asked Baker that his proposal provide Israel with a veto over the composition of the Palestinian delegation, and agree to limit the nature of the talks only to the issue of West Bank elections and not deal with the intractable issues of final status of the territories.

A senior Labour cabinet source yesterday said that he believed there was "no chance to bridge the gap" between the Likud and the U.S.

The source said that "Arens is ultimately insisting that Israel have the right of veto over each name on the list separately—and this is something the Americans cannot possibly grant without eliminating any chance of Arab consent to the process."

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said late last night that they have yet to receive the U.S. reply to an Israeli request that Baker modify his framework proposal.

The Labour Party indicated this weekend that it had lost faith in the Likud's willingness to reach an agreement with the U.S. over the Baker proposals.

As a result, the voices in Labour calling for a dissolution of the national unity government have grown stronger, and the party released a statement saying that it has "no faith in Foreign Minister Arens's" ability to advance the peace process.

Minister Gad Ya'acobi also said that the present positions of Shamir and Arens indicated that "they in fact want no dialogue at all."

Labour's Deputy Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Navon, yesterday told THE JERUSALEM POST he was convinced that Labour "will be able to come to a definite conclusion within two or three weeks," immediately following Prime Minister Shamir's return from Washington.

"There will be no more waiting for further developments," Navon said. "We will have all the information we need."

Shamir Awaits Reply on Modifying Baker Plan

TA2910181489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Report by Menahem Friedman on remarks made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "this evening" to a delegation of the Joint Distributing Committee visiting Israel; Shamir's comments in English—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] [Passage omitted] South Africa is a most hated country in the United States. The leaders of the Joint [Distributing Committee] organization wanted to receive a final confirmation of Israel's denial of the reports, and the prime minister gave them just that. Israel's citizens, as well as U.S. citizens, absolutely reject the policy of apartheid, he said. We do not have, and we never had any nuclear ties with South Africa.

[Shamir] The population in Israel has the same feelings on apartheid as the United States. Every man and woman is against apartheid with all his heart. There is no question about it. They have been subject to such incrimination many times. We have explained many times to the American Congress, the American administration, that these all are baseless lies.

[Friedman] Concerning the disagreement on the five points, the prime minister said that he hopes he would manage to bridge the gaps between the two governments and Egypt in the peace process during his visit to the United States. His office is awaiting the U.S. reply to Israel's request to make several changes in the five-point plan.

[Shamir] We are waiting, we are still waiting for some replies from the secretary of state. Maybe tonight we will get something, and it will make the entire situation easier.

Officials Continue To Deny South African Links

Rubinstein Refutes Report

TA3010053089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Israel yesterday categorically denied the NBC report of Israeli nuclear cooperation with South Africa and the transfer of U.S. technology to South Africans. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] The State of Israel will not be the first one to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Frankly, there is no truth whatsoever to the NBC report made in the United States last week on alleged links between Israel and South Africa in the nuclear field. The Ministry of Defense spokesman emphasized, and was repeated today, that the Israeli defense establishment is true and implements the Israeli Cabinet decision of 18 March 1987, which says that no new defense contracts between Israel and South Africa should be signed.

Also, as far as the U.S. technology, the defense establishment did not transfer from Israel to any other country U.S. technology or systems that include U.S. components without permission by the U.S. authorities. This applies to any foreign country, including South Africa, so all allegations that NBC reports that U.S. Lavi technologies were transferred, allegedly, to South Africa are baseless. [end recording]

Ministry Denies Transfer

TA2710185189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The Defense Ministry has issued this statement: The defense establishment has not transferred either U.S. technologies or systems containing U.S. components, from Israel to other countries, without obtaining permission from U.S. authorities.

The sources denied outright the allegations raised in the NBC report according to which Israel had transferred U.S. technology employed in the Lavi plane to South Africa. [passage omitted]

Rabin Reiterates Denial

TA2910120489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Report by Yaron Kulas—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Kulas] The Cabinet meeting ended some 15 minutes ago. At its opening—in the framework of the weekly reviews and before any queries were made—Defense Minister Rabin reiterated the denial made last week concerning an alleged nuclear link between Israel and South Africa. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i told us what Rabin said at the session.

[Moda'i] There has been no transfer of defense technology—certainly not American technology—from Israel to South Africa. No technology whatsoever was transferred—not American and not such that was fully or partly financed by the United States.

[Kulas] These are the remarks Defense Minister Rabin made at the Cabinet session. No further debate was held on this issue.

Minister Ari'el Sharon again attacked Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on the political issues, mainly Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan. Sharon asked Arens: Could we finally hear from you what you asked that Baker change in his five points?

Arens replied: I have already briefed the Cabinet.

Sharon: The Cabinet heard no such report.

Arens: I did present a report.

Sharon than addressed the stenographer asking that the dialogue be added to the protocol, the same trick he pulled in last week's Cabinet session.

We will now hear two ministers refer to the political issue: Likud's Minister Moshe Qatzav, followed by Alignment Minister Moshe Shahal:

[Qatzav] There is no doubt in my mind that, if they try to sneak in on us a Palestinian delegation which would be a PLO one and not allow us to decide with whom to sit for talks, we will have to reject the U.S. request, even if it is a U.S. request.

[Shahal] I believe that it was totally inadvisable to create the atmosphere of crisis with the United States. I believe the remarks made by senior officials in the government concerning a confrontation with the United States have caused damage.

[Kulas] To conclude this part of the Cabinet session, Foreign Minister Arens promised that the Cabinet will hold a political debate on James Baker's five-point plan before Prime Minister Shamir leaves for his U.S. visit in mid-November. [passage omitted]

No Links Between NBC Report, U.S. Tension

TA2910101389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] The NBC report on Israeli-South African cooperation is unrelated to tension surrounding the political process. This is the assessment in Jerusalem, following the realization that the initiative for the television report had come several months ago and that the documentary was prepared as part of a series investigating various countries' nuclear ties with South Africa. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem expressed their view that, in light of the reactions of President Bush and the State Department spokeswoman, the issue will fizzle out and disappear from the public agenda by the week's end.

No Reason for Report To 'Complicate' U.S. Ties

TA3010065789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Oct 89

["Special" interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe; time and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the NBC television network is continuing its series of reports on the nuclear ties between Israel and South Africa, while here in Israel the reports on defense cooperation between the two countries are continuously being denied.

[Rabin] On the television programs you specified, many different matters were mixed together. I will not go into detail regarding the television reports themselves. Occasionally, at odd times, reports are leaked to the U.S. media on various issues that deal with the problems of manufacture, research and development, and Israel's ties with other countries. The specific television program you mentioned comprised varied and diverse subjects; therefore, I consider it preferable that I explain the principles of Israel's policy on the entire complex of issues addressed.

The first issue is related to Israel's nuclear policy. For a lengthy period covering many years, Israel has emphasized that its policy on anything connected to nuclear weapons is that Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. This has been our policy, it is still our policy, and it will remain our policy.

The second issue concerns the charge that Israel maintained nuclear contacts with South Africa. This report is totally untrue; it is a completely unfounded story. In simple words, it is simply almost a lie—not almost, but a lie.

The third matter concerns everything Israel receives from the United States, whether equipment, equipment parts, or technology that is either delivered directly to us or Israeli technological developments financed with U.S. funds, such as the Lavi once was. Israel is bound by U.S. law not to deliver any component of which we are the final users or, as the Americans call it, the end user [last two words in English] and not to pass on U.S. military technology to any foreign country. Israel would not risk losing U.S. aid by breaking American law and violating these rules. Therefore, our stated policy, which is also being followed in practice, is that we do not transfer U.S. equipment, U.S. military parts, or U.S. technology to any foreign countries, and certainly not to South Africa.

[Menashe] Do you think this is a case in which false reports were deliberately planted in order to disrupt Israeli-South African relations?

[Rabin] I do not want to enter into any discussion concerning the motives and timing of those who leaked or made public this report, but the third [as heard] thing I would like to address is the entirety of Israeli-South African military relations. I saw the NBC television report, and I saw the South African missile boats, for example. This story is 15 or 17 years old, and therefore it is simply irrelevant. It combined periods from 20 years ago with today's reality. In the wake of U.S. congressional legislation at the end of 1986 and the beginning of 1987, the Israeli Cabinet made a decision in March 1987 that stipulated that Israel would not sign any new military contracts with South Africa. This decision has been upheld.

[Menashe] And today, Mr Rabin, is there no military cooperation between Israel and South Africa?

[Rabin] I repeat what I said: In the past we maintained ties, but since the Cabinet decision of March 1987, we adhere to that decision. There are no new agreements in the military sphere between Israel and South Africa.

[Menashe] It has been reported that the U.S. President said that the nuclear ties with Pretoria may complicate U.S.-Israeli relations.

[Rabin] Perhaps, if there were in fact such ties, but, because they do not exist, there is no reason for relations to be complicated.

Peres Out of Hospital, Endorses Baker Plan

TA3010083889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has just been discharged from the hospital in 'Afula, following 2 weeks of hospitalization. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the doctors from the hospital's urological department said that Mr Peres has completely recovered, but has been ordered to rest at home for several days and continue taking antibiotics.

When leaving the hospital, Peres said that Israel should agree to talk to a Palestinian delegation and accept all the five principles included in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan. According to Peres, semantic changes make no difference for the better or for the worse.

Minister Peres also expressed the hope that the false reports regarding nuclear ties between Israel and South Africa would not influence U.S. congressional deliberations on the issue of aid to Israel.

[In a related report, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 30 October adds that "Mr Peres said he is to leave for the Soviet Union in the near future, adding that he has not issued any preconditions to the Soviets prior to his visit."]

Netanyahu Reviews Relations With U.S., Europe

TA2810112689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dani Vessely "a short while after Netanyahu's return from Europe"—live]

[Text] [Vessely] Good Sabbath to you, Mr Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good Sabbath to you, too.

[Vessely] You must be up to date already on the recent events or developments in our links with Washington. It seems, at least according to reports emanating from the United States, that Washington has found a new-old way to pressure us. Is this indeed so?

[Netanyahu] You are using a generalization in talking of Washington. One should remember that the U.S. Administration is not a single body. I greatly doubt the assumptions made in the press to the effect that it was the administration or the secretary of state, as it were, that instructed this wicked and distorted leak. I am doubtful since, for one, these tales also embarrass the U.S. Administration. It is being accused of all sorts of things. One should understand that there are always radical anti-Israeli elements in the U.S. Administration that harness themselves to this anti-Israeli campaign that the Arab countries have developed for some years now and which concerns South Africa. I encountered it in the United Nations on numerous occasions. It has happened time and again, usually before a major event or in the course of delicate Israeli-U.S. contacts, that various false rumors have been disseminated to embarrass us. This is nothing new.

[Vessely] Are these elements the source for the leak then, or is this entire story or rather the timing of its publication purely accidental?

[Netanyahu] I am inclined to believe that the timing of this publication is not accidental, but I believe it should be attributed to these constant elements. The anti-Israel campaign, the attempt to link it with South Africa, is a well-known Arab tactic. It is supported by those Arabist allies of the Arabs in the United States. These Arabists are present in various branches of the U.S. Administration, including the intelligence services, and they do not care if they damage the United States' reputation as long as they deal Israel a very strong blow.

[Vessely] In the wake of this report, the prime minister rushed to deny any links with South Africa. Why is it so important for us to emphasize that there are no links, at least not such links, between us and South Africa?

[Netanyahu] Simply because this is not true. The prime minister expressed Israel's position and gave its clear answer on the matter. The attempt by the Arab countries to link us to South Africa is very strange, though. The Arab countries maintain trade relations with South Africa, involving oil and billions of dollars annually. They, in fact, sustain the South African economy, or at least, supply it with energy in more than one way.

I am not here to debate the question of whether or not countries which disagree with another country's internal regime can maintain relations with it. In my opinion, this is possible and done by all countries, including African ones. Still, the Arabs attempt to slander Israel and to raise unfounded charges against it. The present case is but a new example of this and its partners are located in the United States now.

[Vessely] On the basis of your extensive experience in worldwide diplomacy, do you believe that this storm will subside by itself and that the international community, particularly the United States, will accept the Israeli denials? Or, alternatively, are we facing a problem with regard to both the South African and nuclear issues?

[Netanyahu] There were such examples in the past, and they did not take root. When something is untrue, it can not take root. Let me make a more general statement here, though: We are currently engaged in a struggle over our basic interests, interests related to our future. A country cannot change its positions, especially with regard to crucial and fateful matters, on the basis of one wicked attack or another. We have to keep cool, and not to take fright or get too anxious. We have to insist on our own, to give a firm answer, of course, and to convince our numerous U.S. friends of the facts, as they are, as well as of the justness of our struggle. We have to explain what we are struggling for and why it is important for us to repel these leaks or attacks, which are not accidental and which certainly concern basic elements of our security.

[Vessely] This erosion in Washington's attitude toward us in recent weeks is all the more worrisome in view of the well-known and continuing erosion in the attitude of West European countries toward Israel. We have also heard the statement which the French president made lately. You have just returned from Europe. What is your impression of the Europeans' attitude toward us?

[Netanyahu] Europe is important to us. To be frank though, we have neglected Europe for decades now. We focused our efforts on the United States all the while, and this was natural enough, but still, our political activity there, for all its successes, could not cover up for the absence of intensive political activity in Europe. All this while the Arabs have operated intensively in Europe, scoring considerable political points in the European press, in public opinion, and in the European governments. We cannot allow this situation to continue for one simple reason: Europe is continually emerging not only as an economic unit, but also as a political one. This is not good for the State of Israel, of course. It obliges us to operate there in a manner that is similar, if not identical, to the way we have operated in the United States in recent years. Namely, we should try to consolidate a core of support for Israel both inside and particularly outside the governments.

[Vessely] In conclusion, in the wake of your European visit and recent developments, is there ground for optimism for the future?

[Netanyahu] We should keep our cool and continue to maintain contacts with a feeling of responsibility and self-confidence.

[Vessely] Mr Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, thank you very much.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Netanyahu on Baker Document, Basic Demands

TA2910165089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Shilon] Will the amended Baker document, if and when it is received here, be satisfactory to us? Will it allow us to begin moving the stuck-in-the-mud political buggy?

[Netanyahu] As you know, I cannot very well answer this question, since I have not yet seen that document.

[Shilon] You do know, however, what it is that we wish to amend.

[Netanyahu] What we want—and I would not use the word amend—what we insist on are two basic stands: The first is with whom to talk, and the other is about what to talk. We are absolutely ready, and we are in fact making preparations for talks with the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We are not, and will not be making preparations for talks with the PLO. Both the foreign minister and the prime minister made this point very clear in their various talks with President Bush and Secretary of State Baker.

The other thing is, naturally, the substance of the talks. The basic concept of the Israeli initiative is based on an interim settlement and on the non-discussion of the final arrangement. Obviously, the insistence of some elements on bringing in the PLO, which is certain to talk about a Palestinian state, is absolutely contrary to our initiative.

We have made these points clear. We did so not as tactical points for negotiations, but rather as substantive points on which we will definitely insist.

[Mardor] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, who is insisting that we speak with the PLO?

[Netanyahu] There is, of course, an attempt by the Arab side—as is to be expected—to try various moves to secure the inclusion of the PLO through the back, the side, or even the front door. This attempt is made in varying ways. Some people keep saying: Israel should be brought to the negotiating table even if it is holding its breath and closing its eyes in distaste. It is certain to negotiate with the PLO, although it would not admit so. I am seizing this opportunity to point out that this is not what we mean. We have told the Americans as much.

[Shilon] Are not the Palestinians in the territories, with whom we want to talk, similar to those elements with whom we will have to negotiate while holding our breath?

[Netanyahu] Look, the goal here is to create an appointed representation. I am not saying that this is the goal of the Americans. Those, however, who are exerting pressures on the Americans, are doing so in order to secure a representation appointed by and subordinate to the PLO. Their insistence on including outside Palestinians means more than the inclusion of the PLO. It also means raising the right of return issue.

[Shilon] But this is the reality today. The Palestinians in our immediate surroundings receive instructions from the PLO.

[Netanyahu] Not all of them; otherwise, why would it carry out so many assassinations? We think it is possible to work out a counter-process. I would like to offer the following general observation: As in all political processes, we cannot wage the peace process struggle in a way different from any other struggle, including a war. Peace and war are two sides of the same problem. When waging a war, you cannot panic, split up from within, or give in to weakness and infirmity. This is not the way to achieve results. We are standing firm in the face of stubbornness and opposition, trying to retain some ability for perseverance and determination, as well as unity, without which this struggle is impossible.

[Shilon] But who knows better than you that any war based entirely on tactical moves without a strategic overview is a problematic war? Talking about the substance on which we insist, you said that we will totally refuse to discuss final arrangements. Does this not mean that we are to remain without a strategic overview of all the moves?

[Netanyahu] We do have a strategic overview, which is why we insist on our plan. If we try to promote the final stage of the political process at this point, we will have to face the fact that there is discord in our own ranks. In addition, I would say that even those among us who are most willing to make compromises, would encounter difficulties and disagreements with the Arabs, as well as other elements—the Europeans and the Americans—with regard to the final settlement. If we insist on our concept while retaining a strategic overview—to borrow your expression—we will learn that there can be neither process nor progress. It is for this very reason that we chose to promote the initiative on the basis of interim arrangements. This point lies at the root of our initiative. It is not pointless obstinacy; it is logic based on reality.

[Shilon] Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, thank you very much.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

USSR's Shishlin Interviewed on Bilateral Ties

*TA3010101589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
30 Oct 89 p 2*

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Yo'av Qarni]

[Excerpt] A senior Soviet official says that "when Yitzhaq Shamir talks about the future, he sounds as though he is talking about the past," adding that "Israel may need to show more imagination in its foreign policy."

The speaker, Nikolay Shishlin, a senior foreign affairs adviser to the CPSU Central Committee, is currently visiting the United States. He was interviewed in his Washington hotel on Saturday night.

"We are living in times in which countries should establish relations," said Shishlin in response to a question on the likelihood of reestablishing diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. "Our ties are becoming more and more fruitful. As for diplomatic ties, their time will come."

He dismissed the possibility of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue without the PLO. "The PLO is the true leader of the Palestinian national movement," he pointed out. "It is inconceivable that a peace settlement can be reached without it. Furthermore, the process cannot even begin without that organization. This would be harmful. The PLO may change its position. After all, it did that once."

Regarding Israeli foreign policy trends, Shishlin said: "I think your readers are smart enough to adopt 'new thinking.'" In the past few years, the Soviet Union has used this phrase to describe the shift in its international concepts. Shishlin was also asked whether Israel needs to apply perestroyka-like methods to its foreign policy, and said: "I would not like to interfere in your internal affairs. However, you may need to show more imagination in your foreign policy."

Shishlin also mentioned a host of Soviet issues. He said that despite the noticeable internal difficulties, the USSR will not cease its political and economic changes. "We are convinced that without democratization, perestroyka will fail. We must create a new atmosphere in the Soviet Union. We must increase the people's political involvement and include the masses in the process."

Shishlin rejected criticism by Soviet conservatives that the reforms are too radical and too swift. "Our mistake was not in desiring to introduce radical reforms, but in taking half steps and half actions.... Now we are trying to accelerate perestroyka within the party's ranks." He added that "the old system of the Stalin era is broken now, or partially broken, but the new system has not been born yet."

Regarding the ethnic nationalist problem in the USSR, Shishlin said that "if we seriously wish to attain the goal of creating a democratic society, we will have to convert the Soviet Union into a real federation. This federation will be far more powerful and stronger than its predecessor of Stalin's times. Democratization is the answer to our problems."

"We are a young nation," he added. "Other countries were born following a process that lasted hundreds or thousands of years. But we took our first steps as a state and a nation only 70 years ago, and so we are still hoping to mature."

Shishlin was asked about criticism from within, epitomized last week in Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's declaration that the invasion of Afghanistan "violated civilized norms." He said: "Being honest about the past allows progress toward the future. Yet we have no intention of denying our socialist values and theories. These were not the product of Karl Marx's mind, but the fruit of many years of the laborers' movement. On the other hand, I cannot accept the argument that we built a socialist infrastructure during Stalin's days. Perhaps some aspects of it existed, but on the whole it was not socialist." [passage omitted]

Raising Level of Polish Ties Merely 'Formality'

TA2910085989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Mordekhay Paltzur, the head of the Israel Interests Office in Poland, has said that for all practical purposes, the Warsaw office has been operating as an Israeli Embassy. He also said that the decision to raise the level of representation was merely a formality.

Paltzur was commenting on the decision of the Polish Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee that Poland should renew diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Begin Paltzur recording] That decision is a recommendation, but is significant because the Senate was democratically elected, and in fact represents the views of the Polish people today. I must say that the daily ties with the government are good and correct. There is full cooperation. The problem is purely formal since, for all practical purposes, we have in fact been operating for some time as an embassy, and are recognized in Warsaw as Israel's diplomatic representation. [end recording]

Britain Rejects Request for Supply of Oil

TA2910112789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p 14

[Report by Yehuda Sharoni]

[Text] Britain has refused Israel's request for a regular supply of crude oil from the North Sea. This was announced in a message that was transmitted to the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry over the past few days. The British relayed their message via the Israeli Embassy in London. The explanation given for the rejection of the request was commercial reasons and a desire not to change existing policy.

The request for the purchase of British oil was delivered by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal during his visit to Toronto, Canada, last month. During his visit, he suggested to his UK counterpart, John Wakeham, that Britain sell surplus North Sea oil to Israel. The British minister promised to check on the matter, and the response was given last week.

Energy Ministry sources did not rule out the possibility that the British refusal came against the backdrop of that country's extensive ties with the Arab world. Britain does not believe that this is the right time to reassess the policy of oil supplies to Israel, particularly as Israel does not seem to lack sources for oil from world markets.

Israel procures approximately 40 percent of its oil on the spot market, and the rest is obtained by way of long-term contracts with Egypt, Mexico, and Norway. The oil issue has recently made headlines after Mexico's announcement that, beginning next year, it will slash its oil supplies to Israel because of cutbacks in its sources of the Eastmost [name as published] type of oil which it sells to Israel.

The Energy Ministry said in response that the prevailing policy is not to comment on reports related to Israeli oil purchases from overseas sources.

Egyptians Continue To Hold Crew of Oil Tanker

TA2910093489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Oct 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Larry Derfner]

[Text] Egyptian authorities today will continue interrogating officers aboard an Israeli oil tanker that has been held in the Gulf of Suez for eight days with 29 Israelis aboard, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

The ship's captain, Zvi Yosef, was to have returned to the tanker Nyeta late last night after being imprisoned last Monday and "treated very badly" since Egyptian army and police confined the ship in port on October 21, said Uri Shtupler, marine superintendent for Tanker Services, the Israeli national oil tanker company.

The remaining 28 Israelis aboard—23 crew members and five of their relatives, three of whom are children—are being treated well and are in contact with their families, said Shtupler and a top Israeli official close to the incident.

The Egyptians boarded the ship after alleging that the tanker had been responsible for a 50-square-metre oil spill while passing through the Straits of Tiran on October 17, but inspectors for an international tanker insurance company "found no trace of oil" either in the straits or in the East Zayd Bay oil port where the Nyeta has been held, Shtupler said.

Yosi 'Amihud, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said he could not predict when the tanker would be allowed to return with its crew and passengers to Elat. The Egyptian government has not been contacted in the matter, and the incident is being handled at the consular level with Egyptian police and legal auithorities, an official in Jerusalem said. "We are treating it like we treat any other incident involving Israeli citizens in a foreign country," 'Amihud said.

The incident has severely disrupted Israel's oil imports because the Nyeta brings in nearly half of the country's total oil imports—-about 300,000 tons a month from the Gulf of Suez, Shtupler said.

All November oil shipments from the gulf—320,000 tons—have been cancelled, and 80,000 tons that would have been either in Israel or on their way have been prevented from being shipped, Shtupler added. Officials in the Energy Ministry said only that they were "following all normal procedures" in the affair.

Shtupler said Yosef, 41, of Mihmoret, "told me by telephone yesterday afternoon that they treated him very badly, and that he had been terrified. He was locked up with criminals, he wasn't allowed to shave for five days, and he couldn't talk with anyone. He said he will tell the whole story when he gets back to Elat."

Yosef, however, said he had not been physically mistreated, according to Shtupler.

On Monday evening, Egyptian soldiers and police handcuffed Yosef and drove him for 10 hours to al-Tur in the Sinai for interrogation. Yosef, who was accompanied by a Tanker Services agent and two lawyers for PNI Club tanker insurers, was released on bail Wednesday and was driving to Cairo when he was arrested again and driven in an armoured convoy to the capital for further interrogation. He was released on bail again Thursday night and was staying at the agent's Cairo home before his expected return to the ship, Shtupler said.

Talks Held With Egypt on Return of Deportees

TA2910100689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Israel and Egypt have been engaged in negotiations to permit a number of Palestinians who had been deported from the territories to return and participate in the Palestinian delegation for talks on elections. The United States is aware of these talks.

These are deportees who have not joined the PLO ranks officially and who are expected to be appointed as members of the Palestinian delegation that will conduct negotiations with Israel on holding elections in the territories.

Palestinian sources in the territories have reported that top-level negotiations have recently been held between Israel and Egypt on the return of the deportees. The proposal was broached by Egypt, evidently with the PLO's blessing, as a way of overcoming the objection of the prime minister and the Likud to the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation for the negotiations.

This report was published yesterday for the first time in the East Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS. According to the report, any deportee who was not involved in activity directly connected to the PLO or in anti-Israeli activity for 3 years since his expulsion will be allowed to return to the territories. If he should resume security offenses or commit criminal deeds after his return, he will be expelled again without enjoying the right to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

The defense minister's media adviser said last night that, already during the execution of the latest expulsions several months ago, Israel announced that it would reconsider allowing deportees to return if it is determined that they had abstained from hostile activity and did not participate in any activity within the framework of the PLO at the end of 3 years.

At the same time, he refused to comment on the report on talks allowing deportees to return to promote the political process.

It was reported from the Prime Minister's Office that no such suggestion has been discussed.

Deportees Milhim, Haniyah Offered Return Deal

TA3010100189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Israel has approached Muhammad Milhim and Akram Haniyah, who were deported from the territories, with an offer that they return to their homes to participate in the Palestinian delegation. The offer is good provided they sign a declaration that states they will not take part in provocations, harm Israel's security, or maintain links with the PLO.

The Israeli proposal was relayed to Milhim and Haniyah via a senior Hebron Hills personality. This was reported to our correspondent by Palestinian sources in the territories. The defense establishment says that it knows nothing about this. [passage omitted]

Advisory Panels To Review Lockup Conditions

TA2710102389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron has ordered the establishment of advisory committees attached to the lockup centers operated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the territories, in which Palestinian detainees are being held.

It has been learned that three such committees will be set up. Each will be headed by the president of the military tribunals in the regional commands who have the rank of colonel, as well as two officers—one from the medical corps and the other from the military police. The chief of staff has ordered each committee to carry out a continuing check of the conditions at the various lockups and to report directly to the chief of staff about anything they consider necessary.

It should be recalled that, following an appeal by Palestinian detainees on conditions at Qezi'ot (Ansar-3), the High Court of Justice advocated in November 1988 the setting up of an advisory committee on the subject. Such a committee has already been set up and has been attached to Qezi'ot for several months.

Shomron has now decided to widen these activities and attach advisory committees to all the lockups in the territories.

The chief of staff will soon decide on the location of a new central lockup in the West Bank, which is supposed to house 4,500 detainees. It will probably be set up in the Teqoa' area of Judaea.

Peace Initiative Text Distributed in Territories

TA2910103589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p 2

[Text] The Israeli peace initiative, as formulated by the Cabinet on 14 May, has been translated into Arabic and disseminated in the territories. The brochure in which it is published includes a foreword written in the Prime Minister's Office. The intention is to find ways to distribute it in the Arab countries as well.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir referred to this in his interview with Israel Television's Arabic-language service on Friday, when he emphasized that the people whom the plan concerns, namely the residents of the territories, do not know what it entails and that perhaps after they peruse the contents of the brochure, many of them would reach opinions different than the tunes that have to date been heard.

Shamir addressed, among other things, the issue of the rehabilitation of the refugee camps, as he believes that this is one of the subjects that should be brought to the attention of the refugees themselves and that it could contribute to the promotion of the peace process.

Leaflet Urges Collaborators To Mend Their Ways

TA2910113289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] A leaflet, which was signed by the "Palestinian Revolution's Security Council" and disseminated yesterday, is exhorting all collaborators in the territories to mend their ways and cease their collaboration with the authorities.

The leaflet was distributed in Gaza Strip refugee camps and in the city of Gaza itself. It suggests that collaborators come to the mosques by 15 November to absolve themselves and end their collaboration. Whoever does so by 15 November, says the pamphlet, will be rewarded by being readmitted into the ranks of the Palestinian people.

This HA'ARETZ reporter points out that the content of the pamphlet is unprecedented and that it was disseminated only in the Gaza area.

Two attempts were made over the weekend to murder Qezi'ot inmates who were suspected of collaboration. The first occurred 2 days ago when a prisoner tried to beat Mahmud Khalil 'Abud to death. The latter was found and transferred to Soroka Medical Center for treatment.

New Director of Government Press Office Named

TA2910115489 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by the correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] Dr Yosi Olmert will begin serving as the director of the Government Press Office beginning 1 November. The appointment will be made officially this morning in the Prime Minister's Office. Olmert is a Middle East affairs analyst in the Dayan Center of Tel Aviv University and has served as commentator on these issues in the media.

He will be replacing Yoram Ettinger, who has been appointed liaison with Congress in the Israeli Embassy in Washington. [passage omitted]

King Attends Cabinet Session, Gives Directives

JN2910093189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn last night visited the Prime Ministry, where he met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir. Attending the meeting were Mudar Badran, chief of the Royal Court, and 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, his majesty's political adviser.

Later, his majesty presided over part of the Cabinet's session during which he gave his directives on a number of issues.

After the session, Culture and Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali stated that His Majesty King Husayn informed the Cabinet of his assessment of the developments in the current events, both on the Arab and international levels. Al-Majali added that his majesty gave directives to the government on the necessity of providing all necessary facilities to enable the citizens to perform their election duty in an atmosphere of awareness, cooperation, and respect. His majesty stressed the necessity of the citizens' awareness and their ability to distinguish between the various options presented to them. His majesty also stressed the importance of deepening the spirit of national unity to achieve the noble objective; namely, parliamentary responsibility, in a manner consistent with the nobility of this mission, which demands high- level relations with others.

Al-Majali said that His Majesty King Husayn addressed the Cabinet on the developments of the Palestine question. King Husayn also reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to supporting the efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Lebanese crisis, which guarantees the unity of Lebanon in terms of both its land and people.

His majesty also referred to the dangers which threaten the Arab region and the importance of enhancing unity and backing joint Arab action in confronting these challenges.

Answering a question about a message recently received by His Majesty King Husayn from the Soviet leadership, the minister of culture and information said this message reviewed the developments of the situation in the Middle East as well as the Soviet leadership's support for Jordan's efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East.

Further on Cabinet Proceedings

JN2910123089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan still believes that an international peace conference is the most suitable forum for addressing the Middle East problem in ensuring the Palestinian people's rights, His Majesty King Husayn said Saturday.

Addressing a Cabinet session, the King called on the Palestinian side to unify its ranks to counter Israeli manoeuvres and Israel's plans to divert world opinion away from the essence of the Palestinian issue.

King Husayn also called for a unified Arab position in support of the Palestinian role at this stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that consultations were going on with other Arab countries in this regard. The King also reviewed the latest developments in the Lebanese crises and the situation in the Gulf.

The King said that a letter he received earlier this month from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealt with all Middle East issues as part of a series of coordination moves between Jordan and other leaderships.

The King called on candidates and voters for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections to show awareness and to distinguish between the different choices in front of them. He called for bolstering national unity and for the use of noble means by candidates to reach Parliament.

The King called on the government to provide all necessary facilities for Arab and foreign media to enable it to cover the election process, including the setting up of a media office.

The Cabinet resumed its regular session after the King's address and endorsed a draft law for a revised Income Tax Law. The new law will provide the treasury with JD 15 million annually. According to Minister of Culture and Information Nasuh al-Majali, the law will include only high-income brackets in addition to financial companies and banks which have a profit percentage of 35. The law will take into consideration accumulated losses. Real estate transactions will be taxable.

On the current visit of members of the World Bank for talks with the Jordanian government, Al-Majali said: "Final negotiations are under way to agree on the final conditions of the financing to be given to Jordan. The amount will be $150 million to be paid over a period of 17 years."

The loan, Al-Majali said, will be allocated for the programme adopted by Jordan to encourage industries and exporting, which will ease the burden on the balance of payment.

'Awn Opposes Election of President Under Accord

NC2710153889 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 27 (AFP)—Christian leader General Michel 'Awn declared Friday that he would oppose the election of a president linked to an Arab peace plan that MPs [members of parliament] approved Sunday.

"As long as I am in power, I will not allow the election of a president," who is tied to the al-Ta'if accord, he said in reference to a peace plan drafted by Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algeria and endorsed in the Saudi resort by 62 Lebanese MPs. The accord called for elections by November 7.

Gen 'Awn, who was addressing a news conference at his headquarters in the Ba'bda presidential palace, is head of an all-military Christian cabinet vying for power with the pro-Syrian Moslem-dominated administration of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

Further on Remarks

NC2710154689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn held a news conference at 1500 today. He renewed his call to the deputies to return to Lebanon quickly to explain their stands on the al-Ta'if document to the public. He said that if they show wisdom and flexibility, we'll have enough flexibility to get out of the current situation. If not, the government will exercise its constitutional powers in this connection, he stated.

Gen 'Awn stressed that he is a trustee of constitution, homeland, and sovereignty and that he cannot hand over to a mortgaged president [ra'is murtahan]. He asked why there should be such a hurry to hold presidential elections; this is contrary to sound logic, he asserted. Presidential elections must be preceded by proper preparation and must take place in conditions which will ensure success. He stressed that his aim is to restore the Republic and not to become president.

Gen 'Awn said: We are not in a state of contradiction with the parties. We are only in a state of contradiction with partisan deputies.

Answering a question on whether there is a conflict in stands with the Lebanese Forces on the al-Ta'if accord, Gen 'Awn said:

[Begin recording] I want to ask you this: Have the Lebanese Forces declared their stand? They have not. We and the Lebanese Forces are in constant touch. Together we are dealing with all topics with continuous and direct vigilance, particularly because we know that foreign and agent services are interfering to cause a showdown between us. We bluntly tell all the intelligence services of the world that there will be no showdown. [end recording]

Sa'adah, Deputy Hilu React

NC2810073589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Commenting on General 'Awn's statements, Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah has said: It is regrettable that the issue has moved toward threats to deputies. I will not answer what Gen 'Awn has said. We are not in a confrontation with him.

In an interview with Paris Radio Monte Carlo, Sa'adah said: The Lebanese issue concerns all Lebanese leaders and not one group at the expense of the other. If views differ, then they should differ on how to serve the Lebanese cause and should not reflect differences between us. Sa'adah confirmed that the deputies will be invited to elect the president of the Republic at a session to be held in Mansur Palace saying: It is not in our interest to obstruct this goal.

Deputy Pierre Hilu told London radio: We are surprised that Gen 'Awn should oppose holding elections. He is the head of a transitional government whose first task is to ensure the holding of the presidential elections. Deputy Hilu resented 'Awn's attacks against the deputies, asking: Who can elect the President? Are they the deputies or the people? The entire world recognizes one legitimacy—the legitimacy of the Chamber of Deputies.

Sources Say Deputies Will Not Submit to 'Awn

NC2810074789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Parliamentary sources in Jeddah have said that the deputies will not place themselves at the mercy of 'Awn again and that they will seek to stay out of the circle of his siege until full guarantees for holding the presidential elections are provided. The sources added that the deputies will not yield to 'Awn's efforts, as in the past, to prevent their movement or attendance at the presidential election session.

Clandestine Group Threatens Deputies With Death

NC2810081089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] A clandestine organization calling itself the Organization of the Islamic Republic in Lebanon [Munazzamat al-Jumhuriyah al-Islamiyah fi Lubnan] has reiterated its death threats to the Lebanese deputies who have approved the al-Ta'if agreement. The group called for the deaths of the deputies in a handwritten statement that was given to a foreign news agency in the Lebanese capital.

'Awn Asks Deputies To Return From Saudi Arabia

NC2910064689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] General 'Awn says that a president elected outside of Lebanon will be a president of those who support him, that anyone who is elected in the occupied territory will be an agent, but someone who is elected here [not further identified] will be a president.

He urged the deputies to come back to Lebanon before it is too late.

Phalangist Statement on Al-Ta'if Accord

NC2810090689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Statement issued by the Phalangist Party Political Bureau on 27 October in Beirut—read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese Phalange was established as a resistance movement and developed into a political party. It derived from the nature of its origins a method based on a dialectic relationship between resistance and political action in the national sphere. Since 1975 it has been at the forefront in defending sovereignty and organizing national resistance for the preservation of sovereignty, legitimacy, identity, and the unity of the land and people. In this endeavor it offered thousands of martyrs. At the same time it sought to end the war of foreigners on our land, seizing every opportunity, every dialogue or elegy, to promote the quest to end the war and safeguard the lives of the Lebanese people without surrendering the basic values on which Lebanon is based.

During Lebanon's recent crisis, the Phalangist Party adopted this method. It offered its utmost in the sphere of resistance and at the same time sought to apply this action within the political field in its quest for peace as the ultimate national objective.

Following the declaration of the war of liberation, which the Phalangist Party supported with all the means at its disposal, there were intensive moves by the Arab and foreign worlds. Following coordination between the two sides, the Arab higher tripartite committee was entrusted with the mission of resolving the Lebanese crisis. It enjoyed the support of the Arab League, the United Nations, and all influential countries. The Phalangist Party welcomed all initiatives from the start and used to advocate a specifically Lebanese initiative that would stress a Lebanese decision to rescue the country that would be tantamount to a new declaration of independence. When no such Lebanese initiative succeeded, the Phalangist Party welcomed the Arab initiative and, together with its allies, dealt with it with the greatest positiveness and in complete coordination with the legitimate government under General Michel 'Awn.

The Arab higher tripartite committee passed through several stages and suspended its activity for known reasons. After the fighting in Lebanon erupted again, an appeal was issued by the UN Security Council for a cease-fire and for the Arab higher tripartite committee to resume its mission. Following all these appeals to the committee, and in light of the Arab and international support it received, this committee resumed its activities and on 17 September 1989 issued a decision to institute a cease-fire, to lift the blockades, to open the airport, and to form a security committee under Lakhdar Ibrahimi. It also invited the deputies to hold a meeting outside Lebanon on 30 September in order to prepare and discuss a national accord document.

Hostilities ceased, the blockade was lifted, and the deputies left for al-Ta'if with the approval of all parties. There they began to discuss a document drawn up by the Arab tripartite committee. This document appeared acceptable to everyone as a basis for discussion. Nevertheless, numerous amendments were necessary to bring the document closer to the principles of national balance—between the absolute sovereignty to which we aspired and the practical, available means to achieve this sovereignty. The party followed up the activity of its leader Dr George Sa'adah and, on his instructions, carried out extensive consultations with various leaders and influential figures in order to share views and decisions with them. This was done to embody the party's commitment to democracy and plurality. After this, the political bureau decided to authorize its leader to adopt the appropriate stand in light of the existing facts.

The al-Ta'if document was completed and the Phalangist leader linked his approval of it to the attainment of four reservations. First, the Arab committee should offer assurances guaranteeing two basic points: taking into account the views of the East Beirut deputies which had not been accepted and guaranteeing the proper implementation of the document's amended text, specifically with regard to the clause dealing with sovereignty. Second, the approval of His Beatitude Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr should be obtained. Third, the approval of the Lebanese Front should be obtained in view of the fact that Dr George Sa'adah is its leader and is committed to its stands. Fourth, the accord should be presented to His Excellency Prime Minister Michel 'Awn before its final approval and he should be invited, together with Dr Salim al- Huss, to attend the final meeting. This was to be done in order to conclude the agreement in an atmosphere of national reconciliation and with no one party acting unilaterally.

After the demands of the party's leader and his colleagues were obtained and the agreement was concluded with unparalleled Arab and international support, the Phalangist Party, in light of the divergence of views vis-a-vis what took place, wishes to clarify the following basic points.

1. It is not unnatural for views to differ concerning any national issue of such importance. We must, nevertheless, confront this divergence of views in a democratic way and with objectivity and responsibility. This method is based on respect for the views of others and the need to benefit from them in seeking what is best.

2. The al-Ta'if agreement, like all settlements, and in the midst of the known occupations and complications,

cannot possibly satisfy all parties and fulfill their ambitions. However, from a practical viewpoint, the agreement is an important opportunity that must not be ignored in order to embark on the march toward peace. It is a peace that the Lebanese people have long desired. Certainly, it is not a peace at any price but at a possible price that does not affect essentials and does not constitute a concession that is nationally unacceptable. In this context, the Phalangist Party affirms that this settlement does not constitute the process of real reform but is a necessary political prelude to it. The Phalangist choice has been a result of a practical, accurate, and responsible balance between two options: the first an ideal but impractical one, and the second practical but not optimal. The Phalangist Party accurately balanced the positive and negative aspects of acceptance and rejection. It made its decision in light of its popular and national responsibility—choosing the path of peace, reason, hope, and future to avert the danger of returning to the horrors of war and to guard against being isolated on a narrow spot of land that does not have enough room for its original inhabitants, let alone space for the dreams of the displaced and their right to return to their areas with full dignity and rights. Nor would it have enough room for the course of national life and our cultural message on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels.

3. The Phalangist Party holds that the positive and negative aspects of the agreement could change by a change in method by which the party deals with the stages of implementation, beginning with the election of a president, proceeding through the formation of a national unity government, and finally through the ratification of the national accord document and rendering it into constitutional provisions. The Phalangist Party holds that this method must be based on two principles: wisdom, flexibility, caution, and firmness where each of these qualities is required at each stage of implementation; and the unity of Christian ranks in keeping abreast of these stages—a unity that is open to others and that is committed to the homeland's supreme interest.

4. The Phalangist Party shares with the leaders and citizens their apprehensions and anxiety regarding the issue of national sovereignty. Lebanon cannot have a free and dignified future without complete liberation of its territories from all foreign armies without exception. However, the party notes that the national accord document constitutes a clear improvement on the former situation for the following reasons:

a. The document contains a provision for liberating the south from Israeli occupation. The Arab higher committee has pledged to support this aim on the Arab and international levels in order to implement Resolution 425 and other UN Security Council resolutions toward the attainment of this great national objective.

b. The document contains a forthright Syrian commitment, the first of its kind, to the Arab League, the Arab higher tripartite committee, and the world, to carry out a gradual withdrawal to al- Biqa' over a period not exceeding 2 years.

c. The document includes a provision that the Lebanese and Syrian Governments will specify in an agreement the deployment area of the Syrian forces in al-Biqa', their size, the duration of their deployment, their tasks, and their relationship with the Lebanese authorities. The document also provides for establishing a Lebanese-Syrian military committee for this purpose. It also states that the Arab higher committee will supervise the conclusion of this agreement.

d. The Arab higher committee has given guarantees for the implementation of the document. The Phalangist Party of course knows that these do not represent inevitable guarantees, a thing which does not exist in international politics. However, the Phalangists also know that the Arab higher committee's perseverance in implementing the document, as well as the amended texts, represent a significant improvement on the previous situation, and on any other situation which does not provide such texts, and Arab guarantees and international support for their implementation.

Of course, nobody can prevent the Lebanese from building their own power, struggling and working to accerlerate withdrawals through appropriate means and amid favorable circumstances. This point applies to all foreign forces on Lebanese territory.

While thanking the Arab higher committee for all its efforts, and appreciating all the efforts made by sister Arab countries and friends, the Phalangists request the abovementioned Arab committee and these brothers and friends to complete their efforts to enable the Lebanese State to impose its full sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

5. The Phalangist Party appeals to all to preserve the unity of the ranks and to coordinate stands in order to turn the agreement into a real opportunity for salvation and for realizing the higher nationalist objectives, regardless of any other considerations. The Phalangist Party emphasizes the importance of Lebanese values and democratic principles in handling the public affairs and fateful issues, away from violence and passiveness. The Lebanon which all Lebanese aspire for is one of freedom, preserved human rights, and honest political and democratic competition, because anything other than that would lead to complete chaos.

6. While noting the positive outcome of the al-Ta'if meeting, the Phalangists believe it is fair to greet those who made it possible for al-Ta'if to represent the beginning of peace and restoration of normal conditions in Lebanon through their steadfastness and heroism, particularly the Lebanese Army, its courageous commanders, the Lebanese resistance, and the proud and steadfast Lebanese people.

The Phalangist Party also affirms that the peace march and the establishment of a new Lebanon will make room for, or rather require, the efforts of all officials and leaders.

7. The Phalangist Party appeals to all leaders, key figures, deputies, and all Lebanese people to look upon the election of the president of the Republic as a historic opportunity to restore hope in life and in the future, to renew the constitutional institutions, and to develop the system to suit their aspirations, rescue the country from violence and bloodshed, and begin a cultural and constitutional revolution.

Accordingly, the Phlangist Party, like all other Lebanese, insists that a head of state be elected for this historic phase to face the fateful national challenges. He must be a leader and a pioneer who is fit for the responsibility and open to progress. In performing his national duties at all levels, he should be motivated by nothing except the conscience, the higher interests, the aspirations, and the dreams of the Lebanese people.

8. The Phalangist Party pledges to its supporters, allies, and the Lebanese people in general that it will view the al-Ta'if meeting as a beginning rather than an end of the national peace march. It calls on friends and allies to intensify their efforts and close ranks in order to realize the national goals of rescuing Lebanon as a whole, restoring the full sovereignty and dignity, and building a capable and just state on the basis of freedom and unified and creative positive pluralism. It also pledges to resolve the grave crises generated by war and related to the displaced population, as well as the subsequent problems that have security, social, economic, financial, and educational dimensions, in a proper manner which realizes the hopes and aspirations of the Lebanese and make up for the blood sacrificed by victims and martyrs. It will act to build a homeland and a system unshakable by events or ambitions because it is protected by justice, equality, freedom, dignity, personal strength, and the solid and appropriate democratic institutions.

Thus, the Phalangist Party reiterates that it is for all the people and open to all. It is the party of historic challenges and democratic strength at times of resistance and peace. It is the party of rationalism, continuity, and development, which works for the future of eternal Lebanon. Long live Lebanon.

USSR's Kolotusha Supports Al-Ta'if Accord

NC2810105089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Vasiliy Kolotusha, Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, has conveyed to Patriarich Sfayr Moscow's stand in support of the Arab committee and the al-Ta'if accord.

After his meeting with the Patriarch, Kolotusha hoped the accord would be implemented expeditiously, describing it as the ideal one in the current circumstances.

Replying to a question, he said the USSR will work for the implementation of the solution through contacts with local and international parties and with UN Security Council.

He said there is a common denominator in the al-Ta'if accord among the Lebanese parties and that this is what could be achieved after 14 years of war.

In answer to another question, he did not see any negativeness in the U.S. stand.

Asked whether presidential elections will be held, he said: We hope so. We also hope the Arab tripartite committee will manage to arrange for this matter before this date [as heard].

Meets 'Awn, Comments

NC3010111589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Vasiliy Kolotusha, Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, hopes that full benefits will result from the opportunity presented by the al-Ta'if document. He said there are consultations among the permanent members of the UN Security Council to issue a document welcoming the al-Ta'if agreement as well as the national accord process in Lebanon. Here is a recording of Kolotusha's remarks after meeting Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn in B'abda:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Ambassador: How does your government view the developments in Lebanon?

[Kolotusha] With optimism. I hope that the opportunity presented by the document agreed to in al-Ta'if will quickly and fully produce benefits.

[Reporter] In what way?

[Kolotusha] By ratifying this document within the Chamber of Deputies, electing a president, and forming a national accord government, thus setting the stage for the national accord process to get started and the Lebanese constitutional institutions to be revived.

[Reporter] Can you tell us about your contacts with Gen 'Awn, considering that Gen 'Awn rejected the al-Ta'if docuement?

[Kolotusha] The purpose of my meeting with Gen Michel 'Awn was to exchange views on this document. I tried to convey, as clearly as I could, the Soviet Union's position on this document as well as the ongoing developments in and around Lebanon.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador: What is the Soviet Union's position regarding the call for the UN Security Council to issue a statement as a guarantee for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Kolotusha] According to my information, consultations are under way among the permanent members of the UN Security Council to issue such a document, in which the agreement reached by the deputies in al-Ta'if as well as the national accord process in Lebanon will be welcomed.

[Reporter] Will the statement also contain an international guarantee for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Kolotush] I am not informed about the drafts being discussed regarding the contents of this statement.

[Reporter] Should this issue arise, what will be the Soviet Union's position?

[Kolotusha] It will be a balanced position.

[Reporter] Do you believe elections will be eventually held, as planned?

[Kolotusha] We hope so, but this is a Lebanese issue. However, we have hopes that the elections will be held soon. [end recording]

'Awn, Others Meet U.S. Congressional Delegation

NC2810135589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today met with 'Abdallah al-Zakhim, chairman of the banks association; Staff Brigadier General Samir Mitri, the director general of internal security forces; Abbot Bulus Na'man; and a U.S. congressional delegation consisting of congressmen of Lebanese origin.

Faruq Abu-al-Lama', secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, met earlier with the U.S. congressional delegation, Mr Nick Rahall and Mrs Mary Rose Oakar. Rahall affirmed that Washington is still committed to ensuring peace in Lebanon. Mrs Oakar said: We are very much interested in Lebanon, which is the last bastion of freedom in the Middle East. She expressed the hope that Lebanon will be united and will remain democratic.

Mountain Areas Reportedly Under Army Fire

NC2710143089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah army cliques have stepped up thier aggressions and cease-fire violations. At 1530, these cliques used mortars and heavy-caliber machineguns to pound the Ra's al-Jabal area from their positions in Suq al-Gharb. The same area was the target of an artillery bombardment at 1445. The area of Kayfun came under intermittent heavy-caliber machinegun and sniper fire from 1445 until 1550. The 'Aytat road also came under heavy-caliber machinegun fire from the opposing positions of the al-Yarzah army clique this morning.

Overnight Shelling Reported

NC2810070489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] As part of their continuous violation of the cease-fire, the al-Yarzah army gangs shelled al-Shuwayfat with mortars and artillery at 2300 hours yesterday.

In another development, nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh and Ra's al-Jabal were also subjected to artillery fire.

Shelling Continues

NC2910181889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah gangs [Michel 'Awn's forces] continued their attacks on the Mountain's combat lines this afternoon. 'Aytat, 'Ayn 'Unub, Baysur, and Kayfun came under mortar and heavy-caliber machinegun fire from the gangs' positions in Suq al-Gharb and the Bsaba hills.

Amal Movement Claims Killing Lahd Militiaman

NC2810075889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued a statement saying that a Lahd militiman was killed near Kafr Tibnit yesterday when a Lahd patrol was ambushed by the resistance fighters. The statement added that Amal fighters attacked the militia position near the entrance to Bayt Yahun.

Sniper Fire Wounds Civilian in Al-Kahhalah

NC2810102289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The residential areas in al-Kahhalah came under machinegun fire shortly after 1100 today. Citizen Najib Dajjani was wounded.

Druze Positions Under Mortar, Artillery Fire

NC2810135289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah [General 'Awn's] army clique continues to violate the cease-fire. A short while ago they shelled nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh with mortars and direct-fire weapons from their positions in Bsus. Earlier, at 1400, they fired on Ra's al-Jabal with mortars.

'Awn's Forces Shell 'Alayh, Dahr al-Wahsh

NC2810142789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The town of 'Alayh is currently under intenstive 120-mm mortar fire from the positions of the al-Yarzah army clique. The areas of Dahr al-Wahsh, al-Zahhar, and Duhru al-'Abbadiyah are also under mortar fire from this clique's positions in 'Arayya and al-Kahhalah.

Machinegun Fire Reported

NC2910065189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] According to security reports, heavy- and medium-caliber machinegun fire was exchanged last night along the Dahr al-Wahsh and 'Alayh combat lines on the Mountain.

Group Claims Wounding 3 Syrians; Mine Explodes

NC2910091389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its groups ambushed and fired at a Syrian special units foot patrol on the al-Mina'-al-Bahsas highway near the low-cost housing at 0130 today, wounding three of its members.

In another development in the south, a landmine exploded on the Kafr Falus road as a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was passing. The SLA then combed the area and shelled the gunmen's positions near the confrontation lines.

Militiaman Wounded in Explosion

NC2910194489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Agent Antoine Lahd's radio reported that a land mine exploded this morning as a motorized patrol of the agent Lahd militia was moving on the Kafr Falus front. The explosion wounded one militiaman and damaged an armored vehicle.

Islamic Resistance Wounds 3 SLA Militiamen

NC3010092989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The Islamic resistance announced that a group of its fighters attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Kafr Falus with machineguns and rockets at dawn today. The attack left three SLA members wounded.

Iran's Velayati Comes to Damascus With Message

Arrives, Issues Statement

JN2810065989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus—Dr ʻAli Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Damascus early this morning on a visit to Syria. He was welcomed at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Sharʻ, Assistant Foreign Minister Diyaʻuallah al-Fattal, the directors of the Asia and Protocal Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

Dr Velayati made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he said that he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He added that he will hold talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations and on the situation in the region.

Received by Al-Asad, Al-Sharʻ

JN2810133589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr ʻAli Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Sharʻ and Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Hasan Akhtari.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Sharʻ received Dr Velayati earlier today. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diyaʻallah al-Fattal and ʻAbd-al-Wadud al-Atasi, the director of the Asia desk at the Foreign Ministry. It was attended on the Iranian side by Assistant Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam; Parvaresh and Saleh-Abadi, members of the Iranian Mujlis' Foreign Relations Committee; and the Iranian ambassador to Damascus.

Discussions centered on bilateral relations and ways to develop them in various fields. The current situation in the region and the latest Lebanese developments also were discussed.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

LD2810144989 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister ʻAli Akbar Velayati delivered a message from Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad here Saturday afternoon.

Besides Tehran-Damascus relations, the two also discussed the regional situation including the latest developments in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the first round of talks between Velayati and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Sharʻ was held earlier in the day.

Views were exchanged at the meeting on mutual ties, and other related issues.

Velayati, who arrived in the Syrian capital today morning, also held separate talks with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, and some members of Lebanon's Hizballah leadership council.

Further on Al-Asad Meeting

LD2910062189 Tehran IRNA in English 0606 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 29, IRNA—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad here Saturday called for further expansion of Tehran-Damascus ties.

He made the remark in a three-hour meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister ʻAli Akbar Velayati who arrived here Saturday morning.

Velayati handed over a message from President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani to President al-Asad and the two discussed the latest developments in Lebanon, Palestine and expansion of mutual ties.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's commitment to legitimate rights of the majority of the Lebanese population and to resist aggressions and pressures of enemies.

Referring to the developments in Lebanon, Velayati condemned the recent plots aimed at disintegrating the country and creating what he called a second Israel in Lebanon.

Velayati renewed Iran's support for Syria against pressure of enemies stressing the importance of Syria's role in war-stricken Lebanon—its support for the Muslim and national forces.

"Iran backs any efforts aimed at materialising the legitimate rights of the Islamic and national forces, total elimination of the sectarian system and establishing a just system based on the majority rights," Velayati said.

Turning to Tehran-Damascus cooperation on international and regional issues, he said increased cooperation will help safeguard interests of not only the two countries, but those of the region.

Meets With PFLP's Jibril

LD2910170189 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister ʻAli Akbar Velayati today separately conferred with Palestinian and Lebanese leaders on the situation in the occupied land and the latest developments in Lebanon.

In a brief interview after his meeting with the Iranian official, Ahmad Jibril, secretary-general of the Popular

Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said the Egyptian ruler Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan on Palestine was modelled on the lines of Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan.

'Since the Palestinian people have firmly rejected the Shamir plan, Mubarak is trying to clothe it in a different garb,' said Jibril.

'We decisively reject any plan which has been prepared under the U.S. and Zionist auspices, and aims to deviate the Palestinian uprising,' he cautioned.

Jibril regretted that 'Arafat and his allies have turned themselves into a 'tool in the hands of the Zionists,' and said the decisions taken at the last session of the PLO Central Council 'are like dust hurled by 'Arafat into the eyes of the combatant Palestinian nation.'

Earlier in the day, Velayati had separate talks at the Iranian Embassy today with head of the Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, Druze leader Walid Junblatt and a delegation from the Assembly of Lebanese Ulema.

Warning against the dangers of partitioning Lebanon, Velayati called on Lebanese Muslims to rise up against such dangers.

Velayati arrived here Saturday and hand delivered a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad.

Opposes Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC2910204289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Before leaving Damascus, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that Tehran opposes the Arab peace plan for Lebanon because the plan is not in favor of the Muslims who constitute the majority in Lebanon. He said: I found that everyone with whom I met also opposes the al-Ta'if agreement. He pointed out that the Muslims came out losers in al-Ta'if.

Velayati met with Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt; Deputy Zahir al-Khatib; Hizballah officials Husayn al-Musawi and Subhi al-Tufayli; Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the fundamentalist Islamic Unification Movement; and Shaykhs Ahmad Zayn and Mahir Hammud. He also met twice with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri.

Walid Junblatt emphasized that his stand on the al-Ta'if agreement has not changed, but that he will not block its implementation. He said that the agreement has opened a new phase of political struggle.

Husayn al-Musawi described what had taken place in al-Ta'if as a conspiracy and part of the U.S. plot against the Lebanese Muslims and nationalists. He said that he rejects the al-Ta'if agreement and will confront it with every means at the Hizballah's disposal. He added: The Muslims constitute 75 percent of Lebanon's population and we do not accept a process equating us with the Christians. We are constantly wronged and treated unjustly. He said: The Americans, the Israelis, the Saudi group, and the deputies are the ones who created the al-Ta'if agreement. He accused the deputies of being agents.

Al-Musawi noted that the statement attributed to the Iranian deputy foreign minister about the withdrawal of the Iranian fighters from Lebanon following the formation of a legitimate government is not accurate.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said he regards the al-Ta'if agreement as an entrenchment of political sectarianism and Maronite political privileges.

Departs After 'Positive' Talks

JN2910165889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus this evening following a 2-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; heads of the Foreign Ministry Asian and Protocol Departments; the Iranian ambassador to Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Dr Velayati made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said: Our visit and meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as the exchange of views and the talks held with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', were positive. I conveyed to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad a message from Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian View of Al-Ta'if Agreement Assessed

JN2910192089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati has concluded his visit to Damascus and left for Tehran. He was seen off by his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. Velayati declared that he met with President Hafiz al-Asad and handed him a letter from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said he held talks with al-Shar' and with the Islamic and nationalist Lebanese organizations as well as the Palestinian organizations. He noted that the talks will continue between the Iranian and Syrian Governments and with these organizations to exchange views and bring positions closer and closer together, as he put it.

This statement left observers with the impression that Syrian and Iranian viewpoints on the al-Ta'if agreement were not identical and that Iran is not satisfied with this agreement. However, Velayati left the door open when he announced that the talks will continue and that this coordination is and has always been within the close relations and full coordination between Iran on the one hand and Syria and the Islamic, Lebanese nationalist, and Palestinian organizations and groups on the other.

Meanwhile, the Damascus radio commentary noted that Syria is continuing its efforts to implement the al-Ta'if agreement and that its heart is open to all the Lebanese citizens who seek Lebanon's safety and national reconciliation. The commentary said that no one would be able to prevent national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Velayati met with the leaders of Amal, Hizballah, the grouping of the Muslim ulema in Lebanon, the Islamic Unification Movement, the chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [Walid Junblatt], and Deputy Zahir al-Khatib. He also received Ahmad Jibril and later Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha].

Walid Junblatt asserted that his position on the al-Ta'if document is well known and will not change. He said: We will not be able to obstruct this document but it is not the one that will realize Lebanese reconciliation, as he put it.

For his part, Husayn al-Musawi said that Hizballah rejects the al-Ta'if agreement with all the means available to it because it is part of the U.S. plot, which is aimed against the Islamists and nationalists. He added that efforts must continue to confront it. Al-Musawi said: We will resist the agreement by all means. He then strongly attacked the deputies who signed the agreement, particularly Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, contending that the deputies do not represent Lebanese legitimacy at all. Al-Musawi said that Iran and the Islamic groups will be harmed by this document, but each expresses his views in its own way.

Meanwhile, important talks will be held in the next few hours by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who arrived in Damascus and was met by Faruq al-Shar' and his senior aides. Klibi said he is looking forward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad to be enlightened by his views on fateful issues.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives on Visit 29 Oct

JN2910190089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus at 1815 today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and senior Foreign Ministry staff.

Klibi made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said: I am always happy to return to Syria and I look forward to meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad so that I can take guidance from his pan-Arab views.

He added: The role played by Syria under President al-Asad concerning our fateful issues encourages me to continue to explore new horizons for bolstering solidarity among our countries to support the common Arab action. This action is the foundation for the pan-Arab connection among our Arab countries and for the basic will to guarantee security and development for each one of them.

Soviet Union Reportedly Will Supply Sukhoi-24's

JN2810193689 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Oct 89 pp 1, 23

[Text] Moscow—A high-level Soviet official has revealed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that in the next few weeks the Soviet Union will deliver advanced Soviet Sukhoi-24 fighter bombers to Syria.

The official said that the Sukhoi-24 is a strategic, long-range fighter bomber, with two engines that allow it to fly from Libya to Israel carrying 3 tonnes of bombs and rockets without having to be refueled. It is also capable of flying from Syria to Israel carrying 8 tonnes of bombs and missiles.

The official explained that it is a swing-wing type fighter that can fly at very low altitudes, at night, and in all weather conditions. It is fitted with an electronic system and very advanced radar.

The official said that Syria will receive 22 warplanes of this type to begin with.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Shell Oil Company Officials

JN2910070289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1730 today Mr (Jean Jenik), executive director general of the international Shell company; Mr (Diagraph), Shell director in Damascus; and Mr (Fanlening). The meeting was attended by Dr Nadir al-Nabulsi, assistant oil and mineral wealth minister and chairman of the al-Furat Oil Company's board of directors; and Dr 'Ali Jubran, director General of the Syrian Oil Company.

Discussions during the meeting revolved around the al-Furat Oil Company's operations and field tasks in Syria. The need to expedite work in the fields at which the company operates and to achieve set objectives and productivity was emphasized.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Rocket Attack Hits Kabul Airport, City

Commercial Aircraft Diverted

BK2810064089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0630 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 28 (AFP)—Afghan aviation authorities temporarily closed Kabul airport Saturday and asked all commercial planes to divert because of a rocket attack by the Afghan mujahidin rebels, aviation sources here said.

Two commercial aircraft returned here after entering Afghan airspace early Saturday when the airport was hit by a barrage of mujahidin rockets, the sources said. One of the planes, belonging to Ariana Afghan, was carrying more than 200 passengers.

The sources discounted the official explanation of "operational difficulty" for the airport's closure and quoted radio intercepts as saying that the government move was necessitated by the mujahidin attack. No further details, including damage to the airport if any, were available.

The mujahidin have hit the airport frequently in past months, disrupting civilian flights as well as Soviet transport planes carrying a daily airlift of thousands of tonnes of food for the Afghan capital.

Spokesman on Casualties

BK2910152889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 29 (AFP)—A barrage of at least 13 rockets fired by mujahidin gunners slammed into Kabul on Sunday [29 October], killing four people and hitting the airport and a grain warehouse, witnesses and an official said.

A government spokesman, acknowledging that the mujahidin had stepped up rocket attacks on the Afghan capital in the past two days, said four people were killed and at least 14 civilians injured in Sunday's attack.

Kabul's airport was hit by at least three of the 13 missiles and passengers on a civilian flight from New Delhi were ordered to abandon their baggage and flee without immigration checks, the witnesses said.

One of the rockets slammed into a large warehouse storing rice, wheat and other cereals, killing a buyer and damaging the complex where food had been stocked for the city's residents who face acute shortages during the bitter Afghan winter, the spokesman said.

Sunday's attack came a day after mujahidin gunners launched one of their heaviest missile barrages on Kabul in recent weeks, the spokesman said. Ten civilians were killed and 34 wounded Saturday when 22 rockets landed in the city, shutting the civilian airport for most of the day.

Meanwhile, government troops Friday fired two Soviet-made Scud missiles at mujahidin positions near the Salang Pass, killing 200 rebels who were blocking the key road along which vital supplies reach Kabul from the Soviet Union. The Salang Highway is often blocked by fighting, but the spokesman did not say how long it had been since convoys had been able to reach Kabul from the border.

22 Missiles Fired at Kabul 28 Oct

LD2810163889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The Pakistani-backed criminal extremists fired 22 U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles at the residential regions of Kabul city today, thereby perpetrating another shocking and tragic crime against our Muslim religious people.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that on the basis of the evil plans of U.S. and Pakistani state terrorism, the criminal murdering extremists fired long-range U.S.-made missiles at residential areas of Kabul. As a result of this crime, 10 of our compatriots, including women and children, were martyred, and 34 others were injured. The injured were quickly taken to the hospital where they are undergoing intensive treatment.

BAKHTAR's military section adds that heavy material losses also were inflicted on our war-weary compatriots as a result of the terrorist crime perpetrated by the agents of U.S. and Pakistani state terrorism.

On the subject of this inhumane crime by the criminal extremists, two of our compatriots said the following to our correspondent: [passage indistinct]

Missile Attack Kills 4, Injures 14

LD2910172989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Criminal extremists today fired 10 long-range U.S. missiles onto the residential areas of Kabul and martyred and injured a number of our compatriots.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of this anti-Islamic and inhumane action by the extremists, which was carried out on the direct instructions of U.S. and Pakistani state terrorism against our Muslim and religious people, four people were killed and 13 injured. The injured were immediately taken to hospitals and were given treatment. The missile attack also inflicted financial damage.

2 U.S.-Made Surface-to-Surface Rockets Seized

BK2910092889 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The organs of State Security Ministry discovered and seized two surface-to-surface American made [word indistinct] 30 and [word indistinct] 20 type rockets in areas belonging to Paghman District. BAKHTAR

INFORMATION AGENCY reports that aforementioned rockets were prepared for being fired on Kabul city residential areas by the Pakistani backed extremists. These rockets were discovered, defused, and transferred with the full cooperation of the inhabitants there.

Battle Situation in Nangarhar Province Detailed

BK2810104489 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] An authentic source of the Armed Forces reports to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the Khowst-based units and detachments consolidate their earlier positions and carry out their duties with a high morale and spirit. No active operation of joint forces of the enemy comprising the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have been carried out, however, due to the pressure exerted by our heroic Armed Forces on the enemy.

The warmongering forces shelled heavy arms on Tanay, Gorbaz, Yaqubi, Jaji Meydan, and some parts of Gardeyz city, which caused wounding of three personnel of the units and detachments and martyrdom of one of our compatriots. Three flats were also destroyed.

In response to the shellings, air raids and rockets as well as artillery attacks were carried out against the enemy's positions. A greater number of its positions were ruined; 140 warmongering persons were made get out [as heard] of the operation; 8 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, 1 set of wireless, 2 rocket launchers, 2 mortars, and some rocket launchers [as heard] of the enemy were destroyed.

The source adds that units and detachments of our Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province are mainly engaged in further mobilizing and strengthening of their defensive lines; and some of the units carried out a mopping operation in areas of Sheykh Mestri, Sorkh Rud, and (Katergari), which resulted in seizure of 312 shells of mortar and thousands of bullets and Kalashnikovs, 220 bullets of DShK [guns], 25 shells of recoilless cannon, 4 crates of EK bullets, and 10 crates of Kalashnikov bullets.

The Pakistani-backed armed extremists shelled heavy arms in the past 3 days on Samar Kheyl, Behsud, and some parts of Jalalabad city, and Chaparhar. It resulted in wounding of three personnel of the Armed Forces.

Smashing artillery attacks and air raids were targeted at the positions and areas of the warmongering forces, which led to the expulsion of over 295 persons of the joint forces of the enemy comprising the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis from the battlefield. One set of BM-1, a set of reactif [rocket projectiles], 10 mortars, 2 rocket launchers, 5 arms-carrying vehicles, 4 depots of arms and ammunition, and 2 lorries loaded with ammunition, as well as 1 set of [word indistinct] of the enemy forces were destroyed totally.

According to another report, the armed units and detachments of the Republic of Afghanistan based in Nangarhar Province carried out mopping and combating operations in the areas 10-14 km south and west of the airport of Qandahar respectively and the villages of Molla 'Abdollah, Zaker-e Sharif, and Molla Kohi. As a result of smashing blows, 255 of the enemy forces were expelled from the battlefront; 78 fortified positions, 64 fortifications, 10 sets of reactif, 14 mortars, 3 recoilless cannons, 8 rocket launchers, 19 DShK's, 3 vehicles, 2 tractors carrying arms and ammunition, 2 sets of BM-12, 1 set of BM-1 of the enemy were destroyed. Five thousand shells of reactif, 280 shells of rocket launchers, 30,000 bullets of Kalashnikovs, 10 crates of DShK bullets, 35 shells of the mortar, and 15 shells of recoilless cannons, as well as 5,000 of DShK bullets of the extremists were seized.

Nine men of the armed units were wounded and four others were martyred during the combating operations. The armed extremists [as heard] are carrying out their duties with a high combat morale.

Rival Mujahidin Groups Differ Over Qandahar Plan

LD2910122289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 28, BAKHTAR—The hostile and satanic plans of the Pakistani militarists and the armed opposition groups based in Pakistan, on attack against Qandahar city are doomed to failure.

Our military correspondent reports that Pakistani militarists and the leaders of the extremists have recently sent a delegation including four Pakistani militarists to Qandahar Province to organize an attack on Qandahar city. The said delegation held a session in Bazar-e Panjva'i, Qandahar Province attended by 140 armed opposition commanders.

The report adds that 102 armed opposition commanders rejected the plan and only 38 of them attached to Golbuddin [Hekmatyar] and [Rasul] Sayaf extremist groups supported the plan which resulted in deepening of the differences among the extremists including three ring-leaders named 'Abdul Wali, Mullah 'Abdul Satar and Qari 'Abdul 'Aziz and three Pakistani militarists from the members of the said delegation were killed and tens of others wounded during these clashes. The clashes still continue in different parts of the Qandahar Province.

Mujahidin Block Salang Highway; Convoy Stranded

BK2910082889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have blocked the Salang highway; a major military convoy en route to Kabul was stranded. According to the Afghan interim government's news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the military convoy carrying arms and ammunition was attacked at the ridges of Hindu Kush Mountains north of Kabul. Ten tanks and 20 vehicles carrying the ammunition were destroyed. The mujahidin seized 6 heavy machineguns and 100 Kalashnikov rifles. The convoy had left Hayratan post located along the Soviet border carrying arms and ammunition.

The mujahidin also attacked Kabul regime bases in Baghlan Province inflicting loss of lives of the regime's troops and seizing a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

According to agency reports, Kabul regime war planes carried out indiscriminate bombing north of Jalalabad. Two Scud missiles were also fired.

Recent Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Noted

BK2910155289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have shot down a fighter aircraft of the Kabul regime which was bombing mujahidin positions and villages in (Chowtan) near Hayratan post on the Soviet border.

The Afghan interim government's news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reports that the mujahidin carried out a severe rocket attack on Kabul regime positions at Towr Kotal, southeast of Qandahar, and pushed back the puppet regime troops 1 km toward Qandahar Airport. The mujahidin also fired a long-range missile on Qarghah military division east of Kabul, killing one officer and nine soldiers. The agency says the Kabul-Lowghar highway is still closed and a Kabul regime convoy protected by armored vehicles and bomber aircraft could not advance further.

Infighting Among Kabul Regime Forces Noted

BK2810083089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] A delegation of the Afghan interim government has had a meeting with the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, in New York and briefed him on the latest situation in Afghanistan. Later, talking to newsmen, the leader of the delegation, Dr Farooq Azam, said that the UN secretary general assured [as heard] them to take all possible steps to bring about a political solution providing for self-determination by the Afghan people.

Earlier, the delegation met a number of ambassadors to thank them for their support to the Afghan cause. The delegation has now flown to Washington to meet senior U.S. officials, senators, and congressmen.

And in Afghanistan itself there are reports of intensified infighting between different factions of Kabul regime forces and militiamen in Qandahar. The Kabul regime has failed in bringing any settlement between these factions.

Najibullah Congratulates GDR, Hungarian Leaders

LD2710213489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, sent a congratulatory telegram to Berlin addressed to His Excellency Egon Krenz on the occasion of his election as general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council.

With sincere congratulations, the message expresses confidence that under the leadership of His Excellency Egon Krenz the GDR will achieve further victories for tranquillity and prosperity and the friendly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation between our governments and people will be further broadened.

Esteened Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, sent a congratulatory telegram to Budapest addressed to His Excellency Dr Matyas Szuros, on the occasion of his election as president of the Republic of Hungary.

In expressing best sincere congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of the Republic of Hungary and prosperity of the people of this country the message expresses confidence that the friendly relations and cooperation between the governments and people of the two countries will be further developed in the interests of peace and progress.

Vice President Receives Soviet Delegation 28 Oct

LD2910132389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 28, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice=president of the Republic of Afghanistan met with the Soviet delegation headed by Bahramov, minister of public health of the Uzbek SSR Republic [name and title as recieved] here today.

During the meeting, the sides stressed on the importance of friendly relations and strengthening of good neighbourly relations.

The Afghan vice-president said that the Soviet Union has helped Afghanistan in the most difficult moments and spared no efforts in this connection.

The head of the Soviet delegation said that the Soviet Union evaluates highly good neighbourly relations and will spare no efforts for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan as well as economic growth of the country.

According to another report Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister of Afghanistan, met with the Soviet delegation here today. During the meeting, the Afghan deputy prime minister thanked the Soviet side for all-sided and disinterested aids rendered to the Republic of Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on USSR Aid

LD2910213889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan said the following to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY: Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister of the Soviet Union, recently discussed Afghanistan during a meeting of the Soviet Supreme Council. He said that continued Soviet assistance to, and cooperation with, the Republic of Afghanistan, have been interpreted unrealistically and prejudicially by a number of Western circles and personalities, especially the U.S. Administration. Senator Humphrey and a spokesperson of the U.S. State Department, commenting on the so-called illegality of the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan and the ending of the Soviet Union's military assistance to Afghanistan, have resorted to hostile assertions.

First of all, it should be mentioned that the people's sovereignty existed before the arrival of the Soviet military contingents in Afghanistan, derived from the true will of the Afghan people, and was not created by any foreign power. It should also be mentioned that the legality and illegality of political regimes depend on whether or not they are supported by the people and have the ability to defend themselves. The experience of the last 8 months, since the return of the Soviet military contingents, proved convincingly that the Republic of Afghanistan is capable of defending the country's independence and territorial integrity, despite the intensification of foreign interference; and of supporting [as heard] the national reconciliation policy. It is obvious to all that at present, the armed opposition forces of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the Pakistani army, Saudi mercenaries, and U.S. advisers, and with the enormous financial and arms resources placed at their disposal by these countries, are carrying out a widespread and harsh fratricidal war and bloodshed against the Republic of Afghanistan. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, relying on the will of the people of Afghanistan, have manifested their increasing ability to defend the homeland and ensure peace in the country independently.

The legality of the Republic of Afghanistan has been proved, not with the provocative and motivated words of a some U.S. authorities, but in the hot trenches of war for an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan. The legal state of the Republic of Afghanistan is an independent, free, nonaligned, and Islamic country, and a member of the UN Organization. The determination of sovereignty in our country can only belong to the people of Afghanistan themselves.

In connection with the Soviet Union's military assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan, it should be noted that Afghanistan, an independent, soverign country, believes that it can legitimately use the weapons necessary to defend its independence and territorial integrity. The weapons it receives at present for this purpose do not contravene any international norms and standards, or any of the provisions of the Geneva accords. For 70 years, the Soviet Union, in addition to economic, political and cultural assistance, has given military assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan based on mutual agreement. If the U.S. Administration is really in favor of ending war in the Republic of Afghanistan, it would be better, instead of insisting on a military solution, to accept the constructive and specific proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan.

It should be emphasized once again that, contrary to the assertions by Senator Humphrey, there is not one Soviet adviser in the Republic of Afghanistan. The limited number of experts who are in Kabul only hand over and present technical information, and do not take part directly or indirectly in any military operations. The assistance of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan in various fields continues, and will continue. Eduard Shevardnadze said: Morally, we do not have the right to refuse support for the people of Afghanistan; this assistance which will continue does not contradict any international norms.

However, the generous assistance by those countries to the most warmongering forces of the Afghan opposition, in order to continue the slaughter of people and to destroy Afghanistan, is a gross violation of our country's independence and territorial integrity and is an obvious violation of all international norms, including the Geneva accords. The circles and personalies who resort to such a hue and cry, should instead listen to the cry of the people of Afghanistan and that of the world, and not extend the suffering and pain of the Afghan people any longer.

Bangladesh

Landmine Kills 10 Soldiers in Chittagong Hills

BK2910085089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Oct 29 (AFP)—A landmine blew up a jeep Sunday [29 October], killing 10 soldiers including an officer, in a troubled southeastern district of the Chittagong hill tracts, security sources said.

They said the vehicle was blown up by the mine, thought to have been planted by Shanti Bahini rebels, instantly killing most of the soldiers as they reached Mohalchari area in Rangamati District, some 60 kilometres (40 miles) north of here, on a regular patrol.

"We do not have the details yet," the sources said, adding that the casualty figure could change and that senior officials have left for the area. The rebels apparently escaped into the forests of the rugged region.

The outlawed Shanti Bahini, which recruits most of its fighters from the area's majority Chakma tribe, has been waging a 15-year bush war for autonomy in the scenic hill region and for the expulsion of Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers. The group was accused of an ambush which killed one person and injured several others on a small country boat in Rangamati District on October 21.

Minister on Role at Commonwealth Summit

BK2610131289 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud says Bangladesh has contributed significantly to the outcome of the just concluded Commonwealth summit in Kuala Lampur. At a news briefing in Dhaka Wednesday [25 October], he said the Lankawi declaration has incorporated four areas in its program of action on the basis of intervention made by President Ershad at the executive session of the summit.

In reply to a question, the foreign minister said Pakistan is committed to taking back its stranded citizens in Bangladesh.

India

Japanese Envoy Receives Protest Note for Remarks

BK2710155789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] India has taken exception to a Japanese diplomat's criticism of its defense spending and relations with its neighbors. The Japanese ambassador, Mr Seichiro Noda, was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry, but as he was stated to be indisposed, his deputy received a note of protest from the Government of India.

Informed sources said the Japanese deputy director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau, Mrs (Akira Matsui), had told some journalists that India should curb its growing military expenditure and improve its relations with neighbors.

India regretted that a junior Japanese diplomat, who was in New Delhi for a meeting of the Japanese deputy chiefs of mission in the region, chose an inappropriate occasion to advise India on defense spending and how to deal with its neighbors. Sources pointed out that Japan is the third biggest military spender in the world, and it has no reason to question the right of other nations to decide their defense requirements.

Janata Party Releases Election Manifesto

BK2810160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The Janata Party's manifesto for the coming Lok Sabha election promises to provide a cohesive alternative with well defined goals so as to bring about a social transformation. It enlists as its priorities the fulfillment of basic needs, protection of human rights and civil liberties, eradication of corruption, and controlling of inflation. The 10-page manifesto was released in New Delhi today by the party president, Mr Indubhai Patel.

The manifesto claims that the Janata Party stands for a united, strong, secular, and self-reliant India and is devoted to social and political restructuring through, what it says, the total revolution. Committing itself to an egalitarian society and decentralization of power, the manifesto supports the principle underlying the panchayat [rural bodies] and nagarpalikas [urban bodies] bills.

On the economic front, the manifesto promises to control price rise, reduce cost of production, prune wasteful government expenditure, and bring legislation to ensure minimum wages. It says the public sector will be made more accountable and the units producing consumer goods will be privatized. Primacy to agriculture, exemption of land revenue, reduction in the rate of direct taxes, encouragement to savings, and statutory demarcation of areas for small-scale and cottage industries are other salient features of the party's program. The manifesto pledges to have a policy to end destitution in 10 years and make disclosure of assets by government servants and people's representatives compulsory.

The party says it will make right to work a fundamental right and reform the judicial system to provide quick, fair, and inexpensive justice. It claims that it will ensure freedom of the press and give, what it calls, genuine autonomy to AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [television].

The manifesto seeks to bring about electoral reforms, including state funding of elections, create smaller states, and introduce administrative reforms.

The party says it will have provisions for due representation of women in government forums and decision-making bodies. Exploitation of women will be met with stern action and anti-dowry cells will be strengthened.

It says a special task force will be set up to work out benefits for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and the economically weaker sections.

Free and compulsory education, low cost and mass public housing, rural electrification, and safe drinking water for all are other social measures contemplated in the manifesto.

Sikhs To Nominate 'Independent' Candidates

BK2710143089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 27 (AFP)—Sikh militants said Friday [27 October] they will field nominees in India's parliamentary elections for the first time next month, in a new strategy to win an independent Sikh homeland.

A statement issued here by the Panthic Committee, a shadowy group which directs the Sikhs' bloody separatist campaign, said it would nominate candidates in all the 13 constituencies of northern Punjab State. The statement said the candidates would enter the elections, due in Punjab on November 26, as independents, adding that their names would be announced in the first week of November.

"Should (the) nominees win, it should be taken as a clear verdict of the Sikhs in favour of Khalistan," said the statement, adding that New Delhi would then have to concede a separate homeland for Sikhs. Sikh militants have been waging a bloody campaign since 1983 for an independent state in Punjab called Khalistan, or land of the pure. Nearly 1,125 people have died in the struggle this year.

The statement said if the independent candidates won the polls, the Indian Government should "vacate Khalistan area" by January 13, coinciding with a popular annual festival in Sikh-majority Punjab.

The statement was signed by four well-known Sikh separatist leaders, including two carrying a reward of 100,000 rupees (6,250 dollars) each on their heads.

The Panthic Committee branded established Sikh political parties in Punjab as "traitors, selfish and quarrelsome."

No immediate reaction was available from the Punjab government over the Sikh militants' decision to enter the electoral arena for the first time.

Vote Counting To Begin on Last Day of Elections

BK2810090289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Counting of votes in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections will start at 1100 [0530 GMT] on the 26th of next month, the last day of the 3-day polling program. A spokesman of the Election Commission has said that this is being done to ensure that the results of polling on 22d and 24th do not influence the trend of voting on the 26th. The results will start coming only after the polling is completed on that day.

9 Civilians, 1 'Terrorist' Shot Dead in Punjab

BK2910155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead nine persons, including four members of a family, in separate incidents, while one terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces last night. According to an official spokesman, the terrorists struck in village Chola in Ferozepore District and shot dead a farmer, his two sons, and a visitor in their house. The other persons were killed elsewhere in different districts. One terrorist was shot dead in an encounter with the security forces near Ratanhira village in Ludhiana District.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Jammu 27 Oct

BK2710160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, indefinite curfew was clamped today in Kishtwar town in Doda District of Jammu region, as a precautionary measure following tension between two groups.

An official spokesman said that tension had built up in the town when one group of persons tried to force another group to close their shops on a call given by subversives to observe bundh [strike] today. The spokesman said additional forces have been sent to the town. The situation is stated to be under control.

Agreement Signed Ending Ladakh Buddhist Issue

BK2910165989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The 3-and-1/2-month-old agitation launched by the Ladakh Buddhist Association demanding union territory status for Ladakh came to an end today with the signing of an agreement in Leh between the Jammu and Kashmir government, the Ladakh Buddhist Association, and the Center. This was made possible by the initiatives taken by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the state chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, for restoration of normalcy and peace in Leh.

The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir agriculture minister, Mr Mohammad Shafi, and the transport minister, Mr Mangat Ram Sharma, and other senior officials visited Leh today. They had detailed discussions with the representatives of Ladakh Buddhist Association and the Muslim community of Leh. Other sections of the people, including victims of the agitation, also met the union home minister and the state ministers. After discussions, the agreement was signed under which it was agreed that a satisfactory and mutually acceptable solution to the problems of the people of Ladakh region would be found. A meeting for this would be held in the 2d week of December, after the general elections. It was agreed that an integrated tribal sub-plan would be drawn up to be carried out within a specific timeframe.

The Ladakh Buddhist Association agreed to withdraw its agitation and also drop its demand for union territory status for Ladakh. As a gesture of goodwill, the Jammu and Kashmir government agreed to withdraw all cases in connection with the agitation, except those involving heinous offenses. Prohibitory orders would also be withdrawn immediately. Efforts would be made to restore traditional harmony and communal amity together with the sense of security among the people. Measures would also be taken to rehabilitate all those affected during the agitation.

Curfew Relaxed in Bihar; Death Toll Tops 100

BK2810100089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 28 (AFP)—Authorities on Saturday [28 October] briefly relaxed an indefinite curfew in an eastern Indian town where up to 90 people have reportedly died in Hindu-Moslem violence.

Residents of Bhagalpur poured into the streets in the hundreds to buy necessities as the curfew was lifted for five hours for the first time since it was imposed four days ago, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA [PTI] news agency said.

PTI quoted officials as saying that 54 people had been killed in violence since Tuesday in Bhagalpur, a major town in Bihar State, but said more than 90 had died according to unofficial estimates.

The unofficial toll brought the total number of people killed across five districts of Bihar since October 21 in an unprecedented wave of communal violence to nearly 120, besides several dozen who have been injured.

Eighteen people were earlier killed in three villages of Sitamarhi, near the Nepal border, seven in Munger, and one each in Gaya and Darbhanga Districts.

There was no word of any fresh violence in Bhagalpur, the worst-hit area where Hindu and Moslem mobs armed with bombs, guns and knives clashed for more than 48 hours beginning Tuesday.

PTI said Army troops and para-military forces had sealed off Bhagalpur and were continuing house-to-house searches for illegally held weapons. More than 300 people had been arrested in the town, it said.

The Bhagalpur violence erupted after a 3,000-strong mob tried to block a religious procession of another community Tuesday, sparking off pitched street battles and arson that soon spread into the rural interior. Hindu-Moslem riots in India have tended to be confined to urban areas.

News reports from Bihar suggested that most of those slain were Moslems, while a Hindu communist MP [member of parliament] from the state alleged here that nearly 4,000 Moslem villagers had fled their homes in panic.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi toured Bhagalpur town Thursday after receiving intelligence reports that the town's administration had virtually lost control of the situation.

Nearly 400 people have died this year in Hindu-Moslem clashes across India.

Iran

Velayati Returns From Visit to Damascus 29 Oct

LD3010060689 Tehran IRNA in English 0550 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up a two-day visit to Syria and returned home Sunday [29 October] night. The foreign minister handed over a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his Syrian counterpart President Hafiz al-Asad.

Before departure, Velayati conferred with leader of the revolutionary Fatah organisation Abu Musa in Damascus Sunday and reiterated Iran's support for the Palestinian intifadah. The two sides also discussed the latest developments in occupied Palestine.

Comments on Visit, Al-Ta'if Accord

LD3010124289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] A report from our correspondent on the results of Foreign Minister Velayati's trip to Syria is the subject of our first news report:

[Unidentified correspondent] Following the announcement of the results of the recent conference in al-Ta'if, [Saudi] Arabia, in which a group of Lebanon's parliamentary deputies participated, on the form of that country's future political system and to coordinate the region's progressive forces and Lebanon's nationalist and Muslim combatant groups, Foreign Minister Velayati made a 48-hour trip to Damascus in order to examine recent political developments.

In an interview with reporters on his return to Tehran, the foreign minister described his talks:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the al-Ta'if conference, what took place in [Saudi] Arabia, that is, after the talks of the so-called Lebanese Parliament ended and certain decisions were made, the decisions caused anxiety in the Islamic Republic of Iran. His Eminence Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president of the Islamic Republic, asked me to convey a message to His Eminence Hafiz al-Asad, the honorable president of the Syrian Arab Republic, which I did. The meetings I held with Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' lasted about 5 hours.

After delivering the message from His Eminence Hashemi-Rafsanjani, we discussed bilateral relations and recent regional developments, especially since the al-Ta'if conference. Once again, as on many occasions, Hafiz al-Asad reiterated the Syrian Arab Republic's principled and unchanging support for the Islamic and nationalist aims of Lebanon and the people of the region.

For my part, I informed his eminence about the Islamic Republic's serious opposition to the results of the al-Ta'if conference. Afterwards, we had detailed and useful meetings with various Islamic and nationalist groups from Lebanon and Palestine. What I gathered is that all Islamic and nationalist groups, without exception, are dissatisfied with the results of the al-Ta'if conference and are determined to resist them.

We assured them that the Islamic Republic of Iran stands by them and that it defends the rightful demands of Lebanon's Muslims, believers, and nationalists on the elimination of the sectarian system because the sectarian system is a weakness [vahn] for Muslims. Lebanon's Muslims form about 75 percent of that country's population while about 25 percent are Christians, but they have equal shares in the Cabinet and in Parliament, that is 50 percent of Cabinet members and parliamentary deputies are Christian and 50 percent are Muslim. That is blatant discrimination, and no aware Muslim and no faithful person will succumb to such an imposition. We hope that with the awareness which Lebanese Muslims have, they will continue their determination and steadfastness and that we also will stand by them. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Later in the interview, Velayati talked about the forthcoming visit of [UN special envoy] Jan Eliasson to Baghdad and Tehran. Velayati said our hope is that the secretary-general and his special envoy will be able to do something to speed up implementation of the resolution. However, we doubt their success in this new effort. That will depend more than anything on the decision and behavior of Iraq. And if Iraq follows its former practice, the new action by the U.N. will have no effect. However, if they change their behavior, in view of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is resolved to implement the resolution, we will see developments in the talks.

He added: Apart from the question of whether or not the trip will yield results, we welcome the presence of the secretary general's special envoy in our country and accept United Nations decisions—even if they take the form of a visit by the envoy of the secretary general to the two countries or of trilateral talks. We declare, moreover, our readiness to implement the decisions of the United Nations for the quickest possible implementation of Resolution 598.

President Assails Al-Ta'if Decision on Lebanon

LD2810141389 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani today said the decisions taken by the Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, did not meet the rights of Lebanon's combatant forces and oppressed people, nor were capable of solving the country's old crisis.

"The al-Ta'if conference decisions have ignored the rights of the majority and once again confirmed the decadent sectarian system (in that country)," the president told visiting prominent alim Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

He also underlined the need for Muslims to maintain their unity in the face of plots being hatched by global arrogance and the Zionist regime. Fadlallah briefed the president on the latest developments in Lebanon.

Hizballah Rejection of Al-Ta'if Agreement Noted

LD3010125589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The revolutionary Muslim Hizballah Movement of Lebanon has announced: An international conspiracy to inflict a blow on Islamic awakening in Lebanon and occupied Palestine has taken shape; the al-Ta'if accord and the 10-point plan of the U.S. secretary of state for elections in the occupied territories are the main facets of that conspiracy.

According to a news report from Beirut, Shaykh Muhammad (?Mirsad), a high-ranking official of Lebanon's Hizballah, spoke at the Imam Reza Mosque in Beirut's southern suburb yesterday and stressed that the members of the Lebanese legislature are not the true representatives of the people. He said: Their real role is the implementation of arrogance's conspiracy against the Islamic resistance. He added: The al-Ta'if accord has not taken into account the rights of Muslims; all Islamic groups must close ranks and prepare themselves to confront the consequences of the al-Ta'if accord. 30oct 1349z wg

U.S. 'Spies' To Participate in News Conference

LD2810122289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The Ministry of Islamic Guidance has announced that a number of U.S. spies will take part in a news conference early next week. Foreign correspondents may also take part in this news conference which will be held in the former American nest of spies in Tehran. An exhibition of photographs, documents, and the confessions of the spies will be held in the premises of the news conference.

Programs From U.S. 'Den of Spies'

LD2910115389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The Ministry of Information announced that to mark the day of combat against global arrogance [4 November] programs will take place in the U.S. den of spies [U.S. Embassy]. An informed source in the Ministry of Information announced this today and asked the heroic Iranian nation to actively participate in the ceremonies of the day of combat against global arrogance and to view the Ministry of Information's special program.

On the basis of the report, the day's special programs include the following: press and radio and television interviews with detained U.S. spies by domestic and foreign reporters at the site of the den of spies; an exhibition at the den of spies including the spies' confession documents and equipment seized from them and items left from direct interference in Iran by the United States; the screening of spy films and documents on the links between SAVAK and the CIA and U.S. intelligence agents; an exhibition on the affiliation of counterrevolutionary groups with global arrogance; the publication of the book "Highlights from the Islamic Revolution" including SAVAK and U.S. documents; and the presentation and exhibition of books published in connection with global arrogance.

Daily Says Hostage Issue Back to 'Square One'

LD2810081689 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—The hostage issue seems to be firmly back on square one, said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Saturday.

The daily's editorial referred to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks in last Monday press conference with foreign and domestic newsmen in which he repeated Iran's conditions for helping secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

"Whatever hopes were raised by repetition of these conditions were quickly dashed with respect to at least two of the hostages within 48 hours," noted the daily.

"Islamic Jihad, the organisation claiming to hold ASSOCIATED PRESS Middle East Bureau Chief Terry Anderson and American University Dean of Agriculture Thomas Sutherland, made it clear that the fate of at least these two men lies in Kuwaiti, not Iranian hands.

"The two Americans will be released if and only, when Kuwait frees 15 of the Islamic Jihad's jailed compatriots," the English daily said.

The paper expressed no surprise on this latest announcement as it is a repetition of what the captors announced before and that the hostage issue is rooted in Western, specifically American interference in Lebanon as Iran has repeatedly said.

"Until the Americans and her assorted allies change their attitude, not much can be accomplished," the paper set assured. "After all, what is the importance of the 19 hostages lives when weighed against the 25,000 Lebanese who perished as a result of the Israeli invasion?" The daily asked and asserted "that the incursion was U.S. backed politically, militarily and financially."

The daily, in conclusion, predicted that al-Ta'if conference which was insistent on maintaining Maronite political dominance in Lebanon, behaviour of Washington's other regional allies such as the Saudi's beheading 16 Kuwaiti nationals and Kuwait's silence over the issue will all bode ill on the overall situation.

Majlis Deputy Comments on Ties With United States

NC2810134589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 89 p 1

[D. Montazeri report]

[Text] Tehran—An M.P. [member of parliament] yesterday ruled out the possibility for resumption of diplomatic relations with the United States in present circumstances.

Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh talking to the TEHRAN TIMES yesterday said, "In the light of the very nature of the United States and the role Washington plays in guiding antirevolutionary elements and the anti-Islam stances of that country there is no possibility for reconsideration of the issues relating to resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries."

Asgharzadeh, 34, is one of the student leaders who seized the U.S. Embassy on November 1979. The Muslim students claimed and proved that the U.S. Embassy was in fact working as a spy nest against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Asgharzadeh said, "We were three persons who engineered the plan for the seizure of the so-called U.S. Embassy as we were convinced that the mission was doing things other than conducting of normal diplomatic activities.

He did not reveal the names of the two other persons.

Commenting on the resumption of diplomatic ties with the U.S. he said, "The present stances of that country leave no room for resumption of these ties."

"But," he said, "the leader's views on all subjects are vital and so it is in this," referring to Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

He said that the plan for the seizure of the so-called U.S. Embassy was chalked out after giving careful thought to all aspects of the matter. The activities of the U.S.

Embassy were highly objectionable, he said. "I tell you that if the U.S. Embassy had not been seized and their spying activities stopped, the revolution would have been in danger," Asgharzadeh said.

And moreover, the interim government headed by Mehdi Bazargan did not take any stand against U.S. policy and this was contradictory to the views of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni.

"When we saw that the interim government was extending its hands to the U.S. Security Adviser Zbignew Brzezinski then we realized that specific steps should be taken to stop the plot," he said.

"We knew that the fall of the U.S. Embassy will result in the fall of the interim government as we had information about the secret deals between the two," Asgharzadeh said.

"On the other hand," he said, "the U.S. tried to portray us as terrorists but this was not the case. We were just defending our Islamic Revolution."

Editorial Assails U.S. 'Unlicensed Kidnapping'

NC2710162489 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Oct 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Law of the Jungle"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Department of Justice has permitted the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], the country's federal police, to kidnap those persons it considers criminals and transport them to the United States. It has also asserted that the FBI does not require any permission or warrant from other countries to arrest and transfer persons it considers criminals.

Prior to this, the United States had considered it necessary to obtain permission from foreign countries to arrest and transport persons it deemed criminals, but henceforth it appears that the United States does not need any permission to carry out unlicensed kidnapping from other countries. This directive by the U.S. Department of Justice has given the FBI a free hand to indulge in kidnapping in every corner of the globe. [passage omitted]

This issue is worth discussing for various reasons. It is the most overt manifestation of the right that the United States thinks it has to dominate other countries. It indicates that in its desire to perpetuate its policy of arrogance, the United States does not attach the slightest importance or credibility to the sovereignty of other countries. It is a firm believer in implementing the law of the jungle, and reserves such a right for itself with all its implications, specific and general. Of course, it is possible that regarding satellites and allies, the United States may not need to use such tactics, but by announcing such a directive, it has declared that in these countries as well it reserve the right to implement the law of the jungle. [passage omitted]

What is interesting is that such a license legitimizing lawlessness was issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, which should on principle be the supreme body upholding the sanctity of law and justice in the country. Even though the United States has on several occasions indulged in the overt abduction of individuals in various parts of the world and has also openly accepted responsibility for abductions, the issuance of such a directive by the U.S. Department of Justice proves that from the U.S. viewpoint, the kidnapping of individuals is considered an official and legal action which naturally conforms to U.S. legal standards.

Apart from the various aspects and possible repercussions of this unlawful act by the United States, the question arises as to who is to be the authority on what constitutes crime and who the perpetrator is, and what the criteria for such crimes are. When U.S. interests become the criteria for such crimes, when U.S. policy delineates the framework for meting out justice, and when those who assume the authority to air their opinions on what constitutes a crime are Washington's echelons, it is very clear that the United States wishes to give a legal form to its numerous crimes and kidnappings in this manner and to mask its inhuman acts with a deceptive disguise. [passage omitted]

Syrian Labor Minister Discusses Cooperation

LD2910131789 Tehran IRNA in English 1134 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Tehran and Damascus expressed willingness to cooperate in rural development, agricultural and handicraft projects. This was announced during a meeting of the visiting Syrian Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Haydar Buzu and Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh here Sunday.

In another meeting with Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Hoseyn Kamali Saturday, Buzu discussed Tehran-Damascus cooperation in technical, occupational and educational fields and utilization of Iran's experiences in carpet industries and handicrafts.

The Syrian minister arrived here Friday night to discuss expansion of bilateral cooperation in labour and social affairs.

Meets With First Vice President

LD2910151889 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Syrian Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Haydar Buzu delivered a message to First Vice-President Hasan Habibi from his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam Sunday.

Buzu, who arrived here Friday night, also called for exchange of experts and knowhow between the two countries in the field of technical and professional training as well rural industries.

On mutual cooperation at global forums, the Syrian official termed as "successful" the Tehran-Damascus struggle at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) against imperialism and Zionism.

Habibi agreed with Buzu concerning the "excellent" ties which the two countries enjoy, and said "our relations are free of material interests and in fact we are defending our common ideals."

Placing stress on the need for full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, he said full enforcement of 598 will not only help settle the conflict with Iraq, but will also resolve many regional and global problems.

However, Iraq continues to oppose the peace process, said Habibi, and decried the violation of recognized borders. Once borders are put to question or an aggressor decides to stay within another country's borders, he added, all international systems will be disturbed.

Later in the day, Buzu had a meeting with head of the Mostazefin and Disabled Foundation Mohsen Rafiqdust, and said Syria was keen to utilize Iran's experiences for treating and training its disabled.

Rafiqdust disclosed that a plan for building a modern factory for manufacturing electronic limbs has been approved, and construction is to start soon.

Navy Commander on '100 Percent' Combat Readiness

LD2710184689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The third and fourth phases of the operational maneuvers of "Paykan-1" were carried out today with the crossing of combat vessels and the mine-sweeping of canals in the mid-northern section of the Persian Gulf waters. In this phase of the "Paykan-1" maneuvers, in addition to the exchange of intelligence and the transfer of the crew from air to sea, naval tactics were also practised. In these phases of the maneuvers which were carried out in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, a number of aircraft embarked on enganing the hypothetical enemy while flying over the region. Simultaneously, our own units' positions in the operational region embarked on an anti-surface and anti-aerial display, and by firing at illuminated targets and through electronic-combat operations, carried out their reconnaissance operations and identification of enemy convoys.

Rear Admiral Malekzadegan, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, in an interview with the correspondent from Bushehr's Central News Unit, expressed his satisfaction with the readiness of the forces participating in the maneuvers and elaborated on the "Paykan-1" exercises, he hoped that the forces participating in the maneuvers would display their readiness by carrying out various operational displays in the northern Persian Gulf region. He added:

[Begin Malekzadeh recording] Hitherto, we have not enjoyed such a level of combat readiness, whereby our entire naval units are active, without any exceptions, and none of our air units are grounded. Our helicopters are 100 percent ready; I mean 100 percent, not 99 percent. Our naval units are 100 percent ready. Our rangers and marines are planned to carry out specific operations—which they had not hitherto carried out—in the course of this period. This is a new initiative. Our frogmen will carry out downing operations of naval units in the sea, with the use of genuine explosives. Altogether, this is a highly significant task, and indicative of high level of preparedness of our dear brothers which they have reached through the efforts of the technical personnel and the support personnel in various sections, as well as the operational personnel. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Denies Iraqi Tug Attacked

LD2810101189 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—Iranian naval commanders categorically denied foreign media reports alleging that two Iranian gunboats have attacked an Iraqi tugboat in the Persian Gulf waters last Wednesday, it was reported here Saturday.

Commander of the Islamic Republic's Naval Forces Rear-Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan and head of the Bushehr Region Headquarter of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Montazeri whose forces are stationed in the Iran's naval zone in the Persian Gulf, rejected the allegations in separate telephone interviews with IRNA Friday night.

"Iranian forces have not been engaged in any encounter in the Persian Gulf," Rear-Admiral Malekzadegan said adding, "It is possible that the clash occured between two foreign forces stationed in the Persian Gulf and that the foreign media have wrongly taken one of them as the Iranians."

Such allegations and reports, none of which state its source of information, are circulated at a time when special envoy of the U.N. chief, Jan Eliasson is expected in Tehran and Baghdad shortly for talks to break the stalemate on Iran-Iraq peace process.

The allegation also coincides with the powerful maneuver of Iranian naval forces in the Persian Gulf, Paykan-1.

Concluding Stage of Naval Maneuvers Begin

LD2810121789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The fifth and the last stage of the Paykan-1 maneuvers, named "Amphibious Operations", began this morning in the mid-section of the Persian Gulf. In this phase of the maneuvers sea craft units, rangers, marine brigades, and air-marine helicopters of Bushehr's 2d maritime region participated.

In this phase of the maneuvers, the offshore positions of the imaginary enemy were bombarded by heavy artillery fire, by sea craft units, and by hunter-bombers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army. The marine rangers, staging helicopter operations by the 2d maritime region's air-marine units, then penetrated the imaginary enemy's positions and destroyed their defenses and missile carrying ships supporting the forces which were landing in the area.

Commentary on Eliasson, Iraqi 'Obstructionism'

LD2910174189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Good day, dear listeners. Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's special envoy, will visit Iraq and Iran this week to hold discussions with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq in order to resolve the stalemate in the discussions on the implementation of Resolution 598.

Iran-Iraq talks for the implementation of Resolution 598, which are staged under the supervision of the secretary general, took place in the current month of Ordibehesht [Iranian month beginning 21 April]. This round of talks, as with the three previous rounds, ended without results because of Iraq's refusal to accept the plans and suggestions by the secretary general for the implementation of Resolution 598, and its refusal to withdraw its forces from the occupied areas.

The United Nation's secretary general, continuing his efforts to end the deadlock on the discussions and following Iraq's rejection of the secretary general's four-point plan, put forward another proposal. In this new proposal, the withdrawal of forces to international borders within 15 days, and the exchange of all captives within 90 days have been proposed.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted the proposals of the secretary general, but Iraq is still refusing to accept them. Therefore, up to now, despite the fact that nearly 14 months have passed since the cease-fire, no progress has been made toward the implementation of Resolution 598.

The rulers of that country do not want the implementation of resolution and the establishment of a stable peace. It is in the continuation of those policies that the Iraqi regime has accused the Islamic Republic of violating the cease-fire, claiming that Iranian boats clashed with an Iraqi tugboat. Despite the fact that the Islamic Republic has denied involvement by an Iranian boat in clashes, the question is why the Iraqi regime, following 4 days of silence, now claims that the cease-fire has been violated? The aim of the Iraqi rulers in raising this issue is to prove their claim that the cease-fire has not been total in order to justify their disruptive policies. On the other hand, with this action they try to counteract the publication of the letter of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representative to the Security Council, containing evidence of Iraq's violation of the cease-fire.

Bearing in mind the fact that the Iraqi reaction has been made just before Jan Eliasson, the secretary general's envoy, begins his mission to find a solution in order to make progress in the peace talks, this shows that the Iraqi regime does not want to give up its unacceptable positions, and does not wish to cooperate with the secretary general's envoy. Iraq still intends to disrupt the process for implementing the resolution, resorting to obstructionist policies.

In this connection, the UN Security Council in a meeting last Friday, reviewed ways to implement Resolution 598. After the meeting United Nation members issued a statement and announced their dissatisfaction with the lack of progress in the Iran-Iraq talks. Referring to the visit by Jan Eliasson, they called on Iran and Iraq to cooperate with the secretary general's envoy. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Iranian and Iraqi positions, it should be said that Jan Eliasson's success in his mission depends on the secretary general's envoy being able to convince the Iraqi rulers to give up their illogical stance and their obstructionism. The only thing that can assist Eliasson in his mission is the complete support of the Security Council. If the Security Council comes to the scene of action to implement the resolution, approved by itself, and puts pressure on Iraq and condemns it for obstructing the implementation of this resolution, then definitely the resolution will be implemented more quickly.

TEHRAN TIMES Editorial on Eliasson Mission

NC2810133389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Success of Eliasson Visit Depends on Iraq"]

[Text] Once again it is expected that the U.N. secretary general's special envoy Jan Eliasson will visit both Iran and Iraq in hopes of breaking the stalemate in the peace talks between the two. But whether he will make headway or not will depend very much on Iraqi attitudes to the four-point plan on the implementation of Resolution 598 which was put forward by the secretary general himself.

Iraq, it would appear, is simply determined to be evasive and refuses to stay close to issues that need to be tackled in their proper order. Instead just last week the Iraqi U.N. representative 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari claimed that not even the first article of the Resolution 598 has been implemented. He spoke of there being no complete ceasefire at sea and went on to say that the Arvand River had not begun to be cleaned up. It may be a counter to

Iran's insistence that the Algiers Accord of 1975 be honored, which Iraq refuses to take cognizance of.

What the Iraqi representative said was not new and certainly does not help to resolve issues at hand realistically. Iraq has attempted earlier to change the order of the articles of Resolution 598 insisting that the Third Article on the exchange of prisoners of war be implemented even before the Second Article calling for a pullback of the forces of the two countries to recognized international borders. This was an attempt to prevaricate and gain world sympathy on the humane issue of an exchange of prisoners held by both sides.

But what has to be noted and what Iran has continued to say is that it was Iraq which has blocked progress on the peace talks by refusing to accept the secretary general's four-point plan which has worked out a reasonable and logical formula for the implementation of Resolution 598 in toto and more importantly for our present argument, the return of all prisoners of war to either country in less than three months.

Now Iraq finding itself cornered and embarrassed to explain the refusal has taken recourse to changing course on to a new line focusing on the Arvand River issue instead of on the terms of the four-point plan. This new line seems to follow old goals; to delay and continue the no-war, no-peace status, knowing very well that Iran cannot and will not agree to whimsical changes. Delays will probably only help Iraq to continue to play for time with its Arab creditors and play on their sympathies.

All in all it will be advisable for the secretary general to call for certain clear assurances from Iraq that it will help and not obstruct the progress of the forthcoming talks which Mr. Eliasson intends to hold. It should be clear too that if Iraq refuses to accept the Algiers Accord of 1975, which the Iraqi President Saddam himself was signatory to, then Mr. Eliasson's trip has little chance of making further headway, or being anything close to successful.

Zahirnezhad Appointed Chief Military Adviser

LD2810163489 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today appointed Major General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad as chief of his military advisors.

In a decree issued here, Ayatollah Khamene'i hailed Zahirnezhad's valuable services to the Islamic revolution over the past decade and wished him success.

Zahirnezhad has already served as the Armed Forces chief of staff and as the late Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council.

Yazdi Comments on Independence of Judiciary

LD2810124589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Mr Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, was interviewed this morning and remarked on the independence of the judicial power. He said the independence of the Judiciary means that no individual or organization from the other branches of the administration, or even the head of the Judiciary himself, has the right to interfere with the decisions of judges and that all individuals are equal in the eyes of the law. Regarding the amnesty for prisoners, Yazdi said:

[Begin Yazdi recording] According to Clause 11, Article 111, the amnesty of prisoners and reduction of their prison term are the prerogative of the leadership. This should be implemented by the head of the Judiciary in accordance with another article of the Constitution. A delegation had been appointed by his eminence the imam to deal with and implement this task. Since I came to office and the centralization of management was legislated, it was decided to unite these two trends. Therefore, the Judiciary and the amnesty delegation appointed by his eminence the imam were again coordinated. This coordination means that prison governors must give their opinions on a proposal for amnesty. The same goes for the head of prisons, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and also for the amnesty delegation who should state their opinions: for, against, or even neutral. After the opinions have been given they are collated.

In the final stage, the consensus is submitted to the eminent leader, who will then graciously sanction the views or even give his opinion on whatever cases arise. He could graciously give his opinion in terms of the reduction of the term or an amnesty. After his excellency's sanction, the result is announced. [end recording]

While discussing the independence of the branches of the administration, Yazdi reaffirmed the firmness of the verdict, the inability to influence the judicial power or the decisionmaking of the judiciary. He said that in accordance with Article 157 of the Constitution under which the Judiciary independently carries out its duties under the supervision of the supreme jurisconsult, none of the administration branches has authority to influence the law through pressure. With regard to the independence of the judicial power, he added: The independence of the Judiciary and the judge is such that even the head of the Judiciary has no authority to enforce his views over the opinion and verdict of the judge.

Referring to the issue of laws already laid down in the shari'a [hadd] and laws which are not in the shari'a but which should be approved by the religious authority before implementation [ta'zirat], he remarked on the responsibility of the head of the judicial power in establishing an overall judicial unity. Regarding the initiative taken by the judicial power with regard to dealing with the factors which create economic disorder, he said: We are following the same policy as before in dealing with hoarding and over-pricing, and the judicial power announces its total readiness to cooperate with the executive power in dealing with it.

In conclusion, the head of the judiciary reiterated the policy of his department on the need to expedite the process of dealing with judicial issues, as long as the methods used for speed and diligence do not have a negative impact on each other.

Opposition Views President's News Conference

LD2710171989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Dear listeners. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his interview with foreign reporters 2 days ago, talked about various issues, including freedom of speech and the activities of political parties. In a reply to a reporter's question, he uttered obvious lies, which are the subject of today's talk. Please listen:

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the issue of freedom of speech and the activities of parties in Iran, said: We are faithful to the law on parties which we have approved in the Majlis, and the permission to be active will be issued to the parties that move in line with the law.

Dear listeners, remember that, out of all the political organizations that, according to the Interior Ministry report, requested official registration a few months ago, only three or four managed to get permission to be active. Among those was the Islamic Gathering of Women led by Zahra Mostafavi, Khomeyni's daughter. Since then no group, gathering, or party has been given permission to be active, even in the framework of defense for the system.

From the viewpoint of the ruling gang, law means absolute faith in this gang and total obedience to it; otherwise, any announcement of opposition to the monopolitical policies of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i is opposition to the law, and the opposition, whether inside the regime, around it, or outside it, faces prosecution. The suppression of Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters and the extensive purge from government organs and foundations of rivals of the ruling gang, are samples of such confrontation with freedom of speech.

In connection with right of speech we do not go far. In Hashemi-Rafsanjani's interview, we point out his contradictory remarks. In one place, he talks of his regime's belief in freedom of speech, and in another, in reply to a TIMES of London reporter, he clearly says: The view and policy of the Islamic Republic on Salman Rushdie is the one which has been announced by Khomeyni. Is Khomeyni's order to kill Salman Rushdie not a violent negation of the people's right of free speech and expression of ideas?

In another part of his news conference, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that parties have no problem with their activities in our country. If the explanation of that remark is that the ruling gang, resorting to force, tries to rid itself of the influence, presence, and role of political parties, then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is right. However, if he means the legal problems of the parties' activities, then we would say that this is one of those disgraceful lies.

We are not talking about the problems facing the progressive forces of society; the tragedy of political prisoners' massacre, the organized crushing of the parties and the country's revolutionary and democratic forces, and the prisons filled with the regime's opponents are sufficient evidence of the regime's crushing policies against those forces.

The point is that even forces such as the Freedom Movement of Iran are unable to remove the obstacles and problems facing their activities, because their activities were declared illegal, and despite repeated efforts to obtain permission to be active within the framework of the law. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Rules Out Possibility of New Elections

BK2910131289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said the people had given a verdict in favor of her party last November and the government is determined to fulfill aspirations of the people during its tenure of 5 years. In an informal chat with APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] correspondent in Islamabad, she ruled out possibility of fresh elections.

The prime minister pointed out that the Pakistan People's Party is the only national party having an organized and disciplined parliamentary majority which had courageously resisted intimidation and temptation. She saw no need to call for early elections.

Asked to comment on reports that the combined opposition would call for elections in case it succeeds [in no-confidence motion], the prime minister said their motivations are different. They were a hotchpotch of parties with contradictory manifestos and foreign policy.

More on Upcoming Debate on No-Confidence Motion

Interior Minister on Debate

BK2910131389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The National Assembly was assured today that the federal government is determined to take necessary steps to ensure that the opposition MNA's [members of National Assembly] are able to take part in the session on Wednesday [1 November] unobstructed. The interior minister, Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan, told the house that he will see that not a single MNA is stopped from coming to the house on the day when no-confidence resolution will be debated. He said the government is prepared to consider every proposal from the opposition to dispel their apprehensions.

The house has adjourned after a brief session for lack of quorum. It will meet again on Wednesday, the 1st of November, at 1000 [0500 GMT].

Members Promised Protection

BK2910153889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The National Assembly was assured today that the federal government is determined to take necessary steps to ensure that the opposition members of National Assembly are able to take part in the session on Wednesday, 1 November, unobstructed. Interior Minister Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan told the House that the federal government will see that not a single member of the National Assembly is stopped from coming to the House on the day when the no-confidence motion will be debated. He said the government is prepared to consider every proposal from the opposition to dispel their apprehensions. If the opposition so desired its members can come directly from Murree under the Armed Forces protection. He expressed regrets, however, over the opposition's move to bring Punjab police personnel to Islamabad in plain clothes.

Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan said the federal government is empowered to stop the activities of the Punjab police, but it is acting with great patience so as to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. The interior minister also regretted that the opposition representatives did not come to the speaker's chamber on the fixed time today to give the final shape to a joint appeal for supporters of both sides. The joint appeal would ask the supporters of both sides to refrain from taking out processions, stage demonstrations, or carry banners so as not to provoke each other.

Earlier, IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] parliamentary leader Chaudhary Shujat Hussain and IJI members Ghulam Hyder Wyne and Sheikh Rashid Ahmad told the speaker that the Pakistan People's Party on Thursday [26 October], when the no-confidence motion was approved for a debate, staged a demonstration outside the parliament and posted banners. The speaker said this was against the agreement.

The speaker reminded the opposition members that such an agreement was to be reached between the two sides in his chamber. He urged the opposition to meet the ruling party to finalize the agreement any time this evening and a joint statement be issued in this connection. He assured them that their complaints will be considered. The House was adjourned after a brief session for lack of a quorum. The House will now meet on Wednesday 1 November to debate on the no-confidence motion.

Awan: Bhutto Commands Majority

BK2810112489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Ahmad Saeed Awan, has said it is for the IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad] to demonstrate its majority in the National Assembly as they are the ones who moved the no-confidence resolution.

In a statement in Islamabad today, he said the Punjab chief minister's assertion that if the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] produces 119 members they will withdraw the resolution, shows utter confusion prevailing in their ranks and betrays their escape from reality. Mr Ahmad Saeed Awan said the onus of proving majority is on the IJI. There is no need for the PPP or the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, to reveal the number of her supporters. He pointed out that the prime minister is an elected leader and commands the confidence of the majority of the house.

The minister of state for information and broadcasting said IJI was addicted to making lofty and false claims and they cannot face the facts. He said with the blessings of Almighty Allah, the PPP would prove its majority in the house when the time comes.

Gilani: Opposition Will Lose

BK3010034689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] In an interview, the federal minister for justice, Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, said under that the constitution and laws, it is the responsibility of the movers of the no-confidence motion to prove a simple majority of 119 votes in the 237-member house. He said the opposition will not get more than 100 votes.

Replying to questions, the minister for justice said he himself could not understand why the no-confidence motion was tabled at all. He said a no-confidence move can be tabled at a time when the government takes a step on an internal or external issue that the people genuinely consider a blunder; however, the present situation does not warrant it. This dispute is the result of differences in the mode of thinking. Being in power, we consider it our responsibility to think about the provision of medical, educational, and employment facilities to the people. We are a democracy loving people and have come to power through democratic means. The truth is that the opposition groups, who are used to one man rule, can not adjust to a democratic system.

Rallies, Processions Banned

BK2810111689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry has reminded the people that Section 144 is in force in the federal capital area, under which assembly of five or more persons at one place is prohibited. An Interior Ministry press note issued in Islamabad today says that certain political parties and other organizations are preparing programs for holding processions and other public rallies in the federal capital area. The press note adds that the government will not allow any violation of the law, and that it will ensure the free movement of the members of the National Assembly. The provincial governments should also do the same, keeping in view democratic traditions and principles.

Appeal Made for Order

BK2910162189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Representatives of the Government and the opposition were due to meet in the speaker's chamber in the Parliament House today for issuing a statement to be prepared by the speaker, Malik Meraj Khalid. Representatives of the opposition did not turn up for the meeting.

The federal minister for law and justice, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, later said that since the statement is urgently required as an appeal to the entire nation, it has been signed by representatives of the Government as an appeal to the entire nation. He hoped that the opposition and the public would support it for creating healthy atmosphere in the country.

The statement said: We appeal to our countrymen fervently to help the National Assembly discharge its parliamentary obligations in accordance with the Constitution and its rules of procedure. They should desist from holding meetings, taking out processions, and pasting posters and issuing statements to check any tendency of creating social disorder, so that the parliamentary system could be maintained on solid basis which the nation had achieved after a long and arduous struggle.

Speaker Sets Date for 1, 2 Nov

BK3010022689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid says voting on the no-confidence move will be held on Wednesday [1 November] or Thursday. Following debate on the motion, the final day and time will be decided. An equal number of members from each side will take part in the debate.

In an interview in Islamabad, he expressed the hope that the elected representatives will demonstrate decency and maintain the dignity of the house during the debate. Malik Mairaj Khalid said he has sought the cooperation of both the ruling and opposition parties to devise a strategy on the debate and voting on the no-confidence motion.

Bhutto Chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting in NWFP

BK3010084189 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The Federal Cabinet began its meeting in Mingaora this morning. This is the first cabinet meeting in Swat and the second in the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, is presiding.

Earlier, on arrival in Mingaora, the prime minister was accorded a warm welcome. A large number of people standing on both sides of the road from the (Shehdu Sharif) Airport to the hotel greeted Ms Benazir Bhutto. At the airport, she was received, among others, by the NWFP governor, Brigadier, Retired, Amir Gulistan Janjua; the chief minister, Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao; federal ministers; ministers of state; provincial ministers; and members of the national and provincial assemblies. During her stay in Swat, the prime minister will also address the members of the National Assembly.

No-Confidence Notice Against NWFP Deputy Speaker

BK2510131989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] A notice about the no-confidence against the deputy speaker of the NWFP [North-West Frontier

Province] Assembly was served on the secretary of the assembly by an opposition member in Peshawar today.

Accused Sentenced to Death for 1988 Hijacking

BK2910083289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The judge of special court of Baluchistan, Mr Justice Mir Hazar Khan Fazlu, has awarded death sentence and confiscation of entire property of accused Abdul Mannan Achakzai for attempting to hijack a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] plane to Afghanistan while on a flight from Karachi to Quetta on 12 March last year. The court, under Section 307 PPC [Pakistan Penal Code], has also sentenced him to life imprisonment and a fine of 10 lakh rupees for causing injuries to air guard, Liaqat Hussain, on board the plane. The accused will have to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 7 years and pay a fine of 5,000 rupees under Section 13-E of Arms Ordinance, 1965. The sentences against the accused will run consecutively. The court has acquitted two other accused of hijacking conspiracy and granted bail to another one.

Sri Lanka

LTTE's Reasons for Boycotting Peace Talks

BK2810094489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1045 GMT 28 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—The people are against the formation of the Tamil National Army, and the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] decision not to participate in the peace committee meetings was because of the formation of this illegal army.

This was revealed by Mr Anton Balasingham who headed an LTTE delegation for consultations with the chairman of the Northeast Peace Committee and minister of higher education, science and technology, A.C.S. Hameed, in Colombo yesterday.

In welcoming the delegation, Mr A.C.S. Hameed said that the decision of the LTTE to enter the democratic process is an encouragement to all those who cherish democratic ideals and values, a government communique states.

It further states that Mr Balasingham emphasised that the LTTE is firmly committed to peace and that any conflict should be resolved by peaceful dialogue. They have been able to have successful peace talks with the Sri Lanka Government. Consequent to this, they have declared a cessation of hostilities and also made a firm commitment to enter the political mainstream through the electoral process.

While welcoming the genuine efforts that are being made by the Government of Sri Lanka to restore peace and normalcy in the North and the East, Mr Balasingham said that they are deeply concerned about the formation of the so-called Tamil National Army. The people of the North and the East are against the formation of this illegal army.

Mr Balasingham said that the LTTE has decided not to participate in the peace committee meetings because of the formation of the illegal army. However, he said that the LTTE will continue their direct talks with the Government of Sri Lanka and make every contribution to the efforts being made for the restoration of peace and normalcy.

Mr Hameed said that the LTTE is an important constituent in determining the future of the people of the North and the East. Their participation at all levels will create the necessary climate for political and civilian activity.

Mr Hameed further said that the future of the North and the East is dependent on three factors—the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], the coming together of all the militant groups, and the creation of better understanding among all ethnic groups. He urged the LTTE to participate in the peace committee meetings to realise these objectives which are of vital importance to the future of the country.

Mr Balasingham said that he would convey the request of the minister to the Central Committee of the LTTE. Mr Hameed will continue the process of consultations with the other members of the peace committee.

The other members of the LTTE delegation were Mr Krishnakumar Kittu, Mr Yogaratnam Yogi and Mr Lawrence Thilagar.

SLFP Withdraws From All-Party Peace Meeting

BK3010130289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the main opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP], has pulled out of the all-party peace meeting aimed at finding a solution to the continuing violence in the country. The party leader and the former prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, told newsmen in Colombo today that the peace meeting was not able to take any worthwhile decision. She said the party will carry out a concerted campaign against the government to bring an end to the current trend of killings.

28 Oct Communique on 'Subversives' Activities

BK2810105589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0900 GMT 28 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—Subversives set off a land mine at Gannoruwa Road in the Southern Province district of Hambantota, killing four police personnel and injuring seven. The injured were air lifted to the Colombo military hospital, states a government communique issued today.

The communique also states that at Walasmulla, subversives set fire to a tractor belonging to the Walasmulla Cooperative Society and a tractor and trailer belonging to the Ganga State Plantations.

At Kahataruppa in the Uva Province district of Badulla, 56 suspected subversives were arrested by the security forces. The inmate of a house had assaulted and recovered two fire arms from three unknown gun men who attempted to attack a person named W.A.M. Weerasinghe at his residence in Badulla.

Unknown persons set fire to the documents at the sub post office and grama sevaka [village volunteers] office at Madugastalawa.

Subversives set fire to the tea factory at Hopton Estate, a JEDB [Janatha Estates Development Board] vehicle and a private vehicle. The fire was put off with minor damages to the factory.

Security forces arrested nine suspects at Ratota, Galewela and Haggala in the Central Province district of Matale.

Unknown persons set fire to a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] bus at Kekirawa in the North Central Province's Anuradhapura District. At Jelhiriyawa in the same district, one subversive was killed by the police during an operation. The documents of the Hiripitiyawa sub post office in Kurunegala was set on fire by unknown persons. At Katiyawa, 10 suspected subversives were arrested. Unknown persons set fire to the Kuliyapitiya magistrates court in the Northwestern Province's Kurunegala district.

The bodies of a male and female who were hacked to death were found at the Vetticulam junction, Vavuniya, in the Northern Province.

Seventeen police personnel including two from the National Intelligence Bureau were abducted by TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] members who claimed that two of their men were arrested by the Sri Lanka Army. All of them were subsequently released after it was informed that no such arrests were made, states the government communique.

Security forces conducting search operations in Kirilapone and Madiwela in the Colombo District arrested 20 suspected subversives. At Kesbewa North the documents of the grama sevaka office was set on fire. Fifteen armed men in a red coloured Hiace van without number plates have abducted S.J.K. Ilangaratne of Parakrama Mawatha. Security forces recovered 143 national identity cards from a toilet at the Magammana Vidyalaya. Police recovered the body of Mr Oliver Kariyawasam, a Liberal Party candidate for the provincial council elections at Gampaha. He had been shot in the head by the abductors.

At Walpita the Agrarian Services Centre, Agricultural Service Centre, office and stores of the Botanical Farm were set on fire by unknown persons. A land mine was recovered at Horana Wagawatha road, in the Kalutara District.

Security forces recovered shot guns, cartridges and army uniforms at Balawathgama, Kegalle. Nine suspected subversives were taken into custody by the security forces in Undugoda, Ruwanwella and Jaliyadda areas in the Sabaragamuwa Province.

Two armed men who robbed cash 7,033 rupees from the rural bank at Dodampe, Ratnapura, escaped after abandoning the money and a pistol with six rounds of ammunition on seeing a security forces patrol. In Galle, subversives set fire to the Cooperative Rural Bank at Nagoda and Hiniduma sub post office.

30 Oct Communique on Situation

BK3010085189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0742 GMT 30 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—48 suspected subversives have been arrested at Kadumulwewa, in the North Central Province district of Pollonnaruwa. A government communique issued today states that in Kalutara, 40 kms. south of Colombo, security forces raided a house in Gallassa and killed one subversive and recovered Chinese pistols, shot guns and several rounds of ammunition. The communique further states that at Bekundara in the Colombo district security forces recovered from a subversive safe house galkattas [country-made pistols], cartridges, drill cartridges and several rounds of ammunition. Unknown persons set fire to a vehicle, wire rolls and stationery belonging to the Electricity [word indistinct] Private Ltd., at Mirihana, in the Colombo District.

The communique also states that security forces arrested 4 suspected subversives at Kalliyadda in Kegalle. In the Southern Province District of Hambantota, subversives exploded a landmine and fired at a security forces mobile patrol at Thallerota. Security forces retaliated and the subversives fled. In Matara 5 subversives gave themselves up to the security forces. In the Uva Province District of Badulla 7 suspected subversives were arrested by the security forces. At Moneragala two persons were killed and two others injured when subversives dressed in uniforms, similar to that of the army, fired at a vehicle, belonging to provincial council member, Gunaratne Banda, at Moneragala. Subversives damaged 15 electricity reading metres at Palugasdamana in Polonnaruwa. In the North Central Province, subversives set fire to a room in the railway station, at Jayanthipura, the communique states.